

THE BEITH FAMILY
1843 - 1981

April 1981



Wm. Beatty

1818 - 1901

THE BEITH FAMILY

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THE ROBERT BEITH FAMILY

Robert Beith was born in 1789 in Scotland and died February 2, 1875, at the age of 86 in St. Charles, Illinois. Margaret Patton Beith was born in Scotland in 1796 and died in St. Charles January 22, 1872, at the age of 76. Both were buried in the St. Charles Cemetery.

They were married in Scotland and made their home at Largs, where Robert worked as a stone mason and a weaver. In the summer he and his sons did building work and in the winter they wove "Paisley" shawls on two looms which occupied the lower story of the house in which they lived.

The family migrated to America in 1844 and went directly to St. Charles where their eldest son had preceded them, led there by a distant cousin known as "Squire" Moody.

The children of Robert and Margaret Beith were as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Jean
Johnston | Born in Scotland, January 31, 1815
Died in St. Charles, Illinois, May 30, 1898
Married William Johnston, (October 25, 1814 -- December 20, 1900) a weaver who lived in Glasgow, Scotland.
In 1845 the family migrated to St. Charles. |
| William
Beith | Born in Scotland, February 13, 1818
Died at Elburn, September 24, 1901
He came to America by way of Canada and settled at St. Charles in 1843. His family came the following year.
He married Mary Allen in Scotland. With his father he was a mason and builder in the summer and in winter he did weaving.
Mary Allen Beith was born in Scotland, July 26, 1821
Died at Elburn, January 19, 1905. Both Mary and William were buried in the Elburn Cemetery. |
| Thomas
Beith | Born in Scotland and came to St. Charles in 1844.
He farmed about seven miles west of St. Charles until 1861 when he moved with his family to a farm near Winthrop, Iowa. He died at Winthrop about 1882 |
| Annie | Born in Scotland, probably about 1822. She died at about seventeen or eighteen years of age and was buried in Scotland |
| Margaret
Whitney | Born in Scotland, February 28, 1825, and died in Chicago, June 26, 1920, at the age of 95.
Married William Whitney, (September 15, 1818 -- April 1, 1887) a teaming contractor, and lived in Chicago
Margaret and William were buried in St. Charles |
| Janet
Miller | Born in Scotland, January 1822. Died in Chicago, April 7, 1894
Married Alexander Miller of St. Charles, a millwright, and they later moved to Chicago.
Burial in St. Charles. |
| Mary
Anderson | Born in Scotland in 1829. Died at Dundee 1896.
Married David Anderson (1823 - 1904) a farmer whose land was midway between St. Charles and Geneva and ran west from the Fox River. Anderson Blvd. named for him. Both Mary and David were buried in St. Charles |

Isabelle
Weisel

Born March 7, 1831, in Scotland. Died in Elburn, Ill.
January 9, 1886
Married Andrew Weisel, born in Germany, August 4, 1822,
and died at Elburn, January 22, 1908
Burial in St. Charles

Agnes
Ainslie
Houliston

Born in Scotland, March 18, 1832, and died in Kansas
City, Missouri, October 30, 1917
Married James Ainslie, who was born in Scotland 1829
and died in Chicago, July 1861. Burial in St. Charles.
Married William Houliston, who was born in Scotland,
November 24, 1826, and died in Oak Park, Illinois,
February 1, 1890
Both Agnes and William were buried in Rosehill Ceme-
tery in Chicago

Robert
Beith Jr.

Born in Scotland in 1836 and died at St. Charles
June 1856. Burial in St. Charles.

Elizabeth
Cutler

Born in Scotland in 1836 and died in St. Charles 1922
Married John Cutler, a farmer, who was born in 1839
and died in 1917 in St. Charles. Burial in St. Charles

Infant

Born and died in Scotland. Date unknown

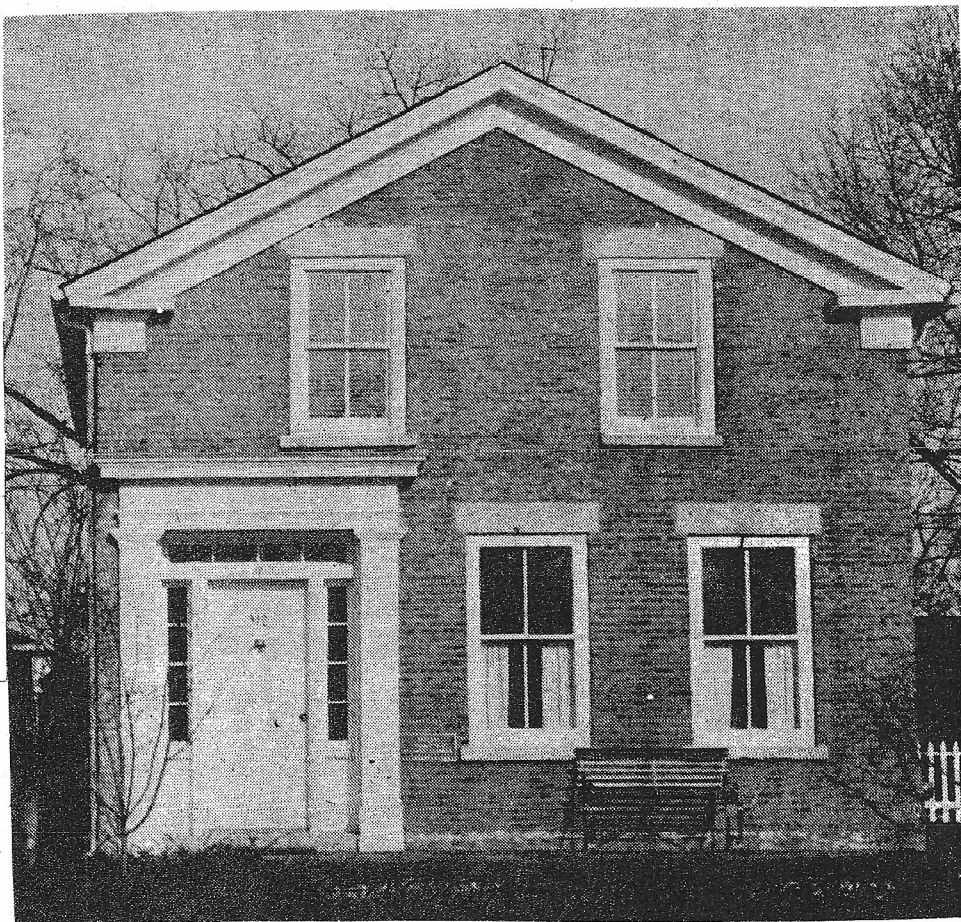
Compiled by John R. Houliston

ANDREW WEISEL HOME

The Andrew Weisel House in St. Charles, now owned by Glenn Craft, is built of brick and stone in Greek revival style. "It's a perfect example of architecture indigenous to the area at the time." Craft said.

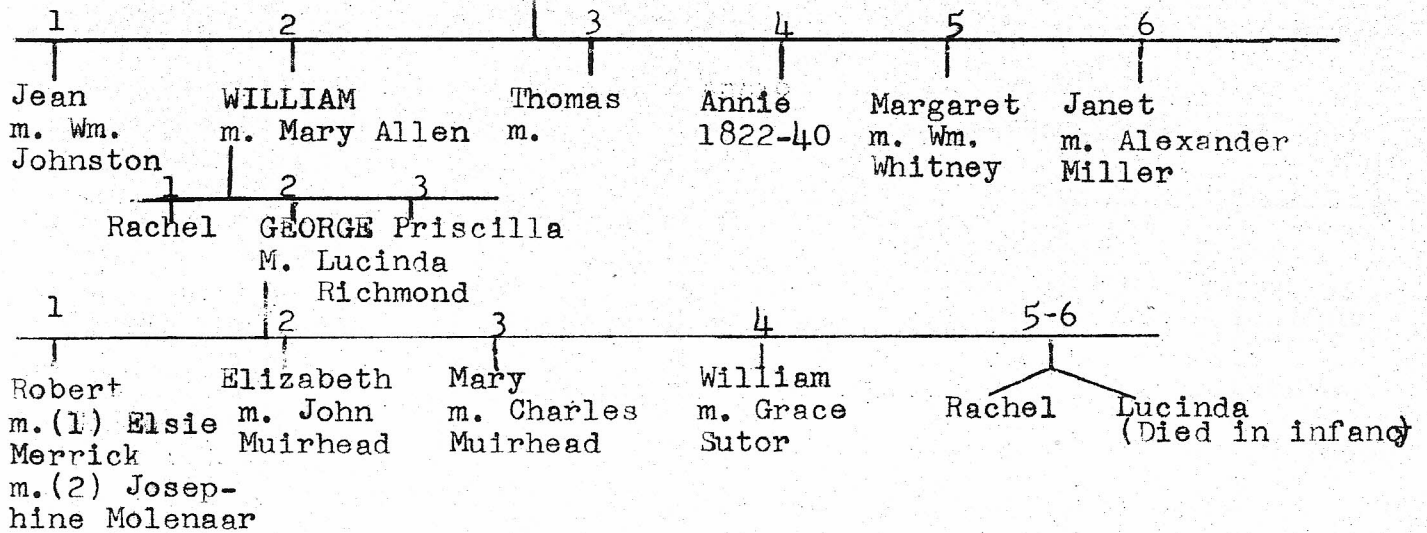
The house was built by mason Weisel, a German immigrant, soon after he arrived in St. Charles in 1846.

Craft said the Beith House and his have a connection: Weisel married Isabella Beith, sister of William.

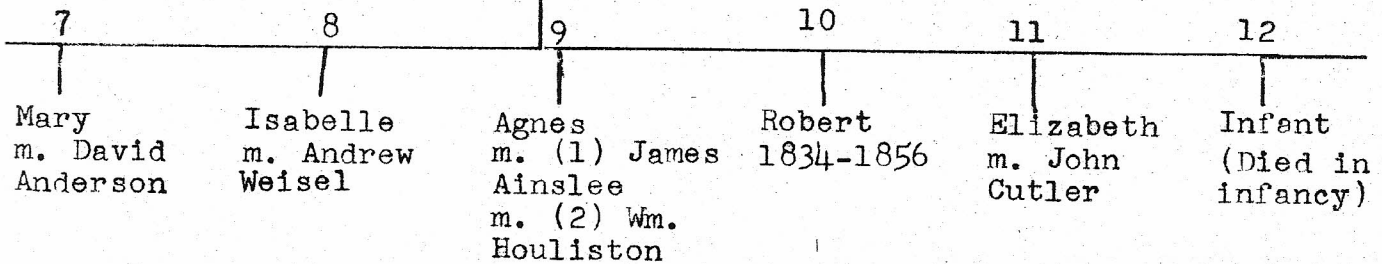


St. Charles Chronicle, March 19, 1980

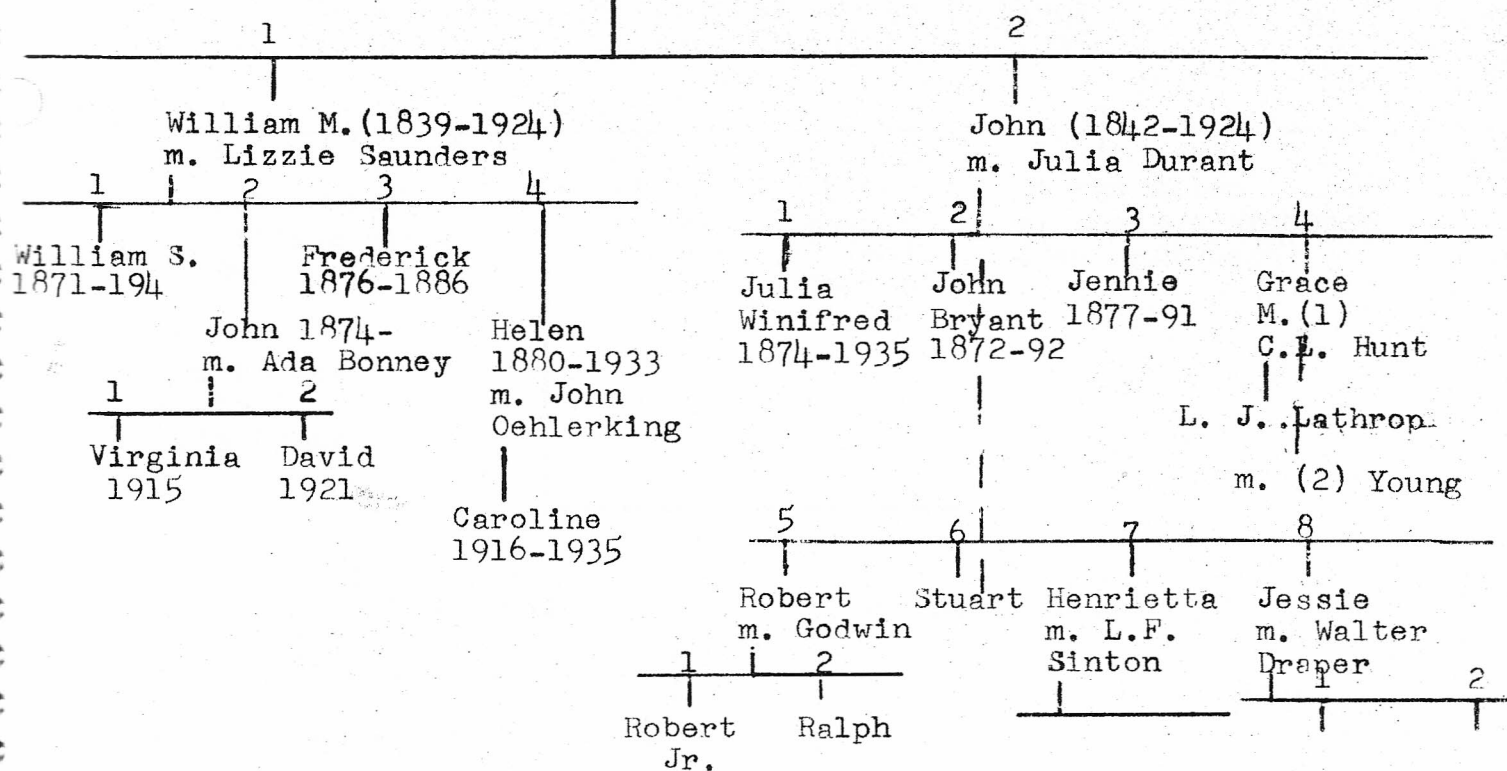
ROBERT BEITH 1789 - 1875
m. MARGARET PATTON 1796 - 1872



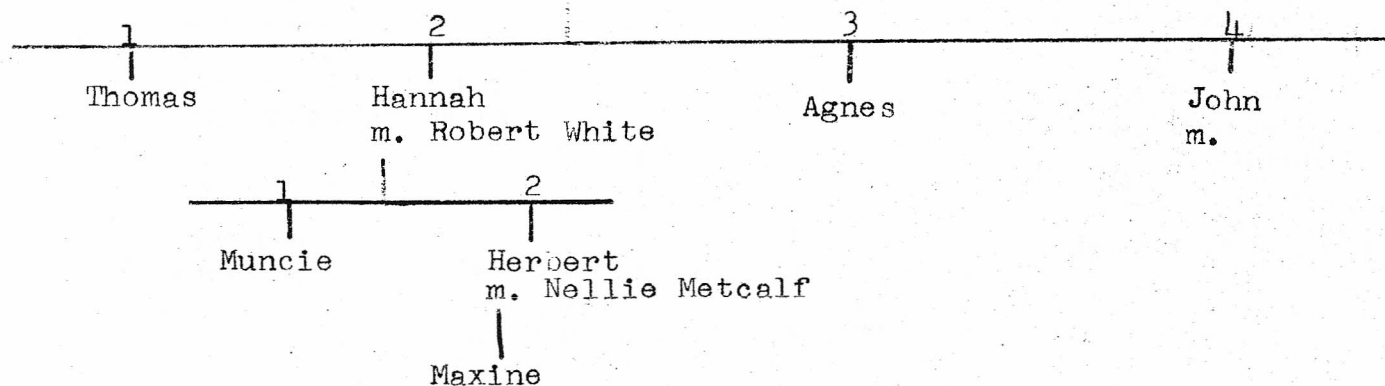
ROBERT BEITH (Continued)
M. MARGARET PATTON



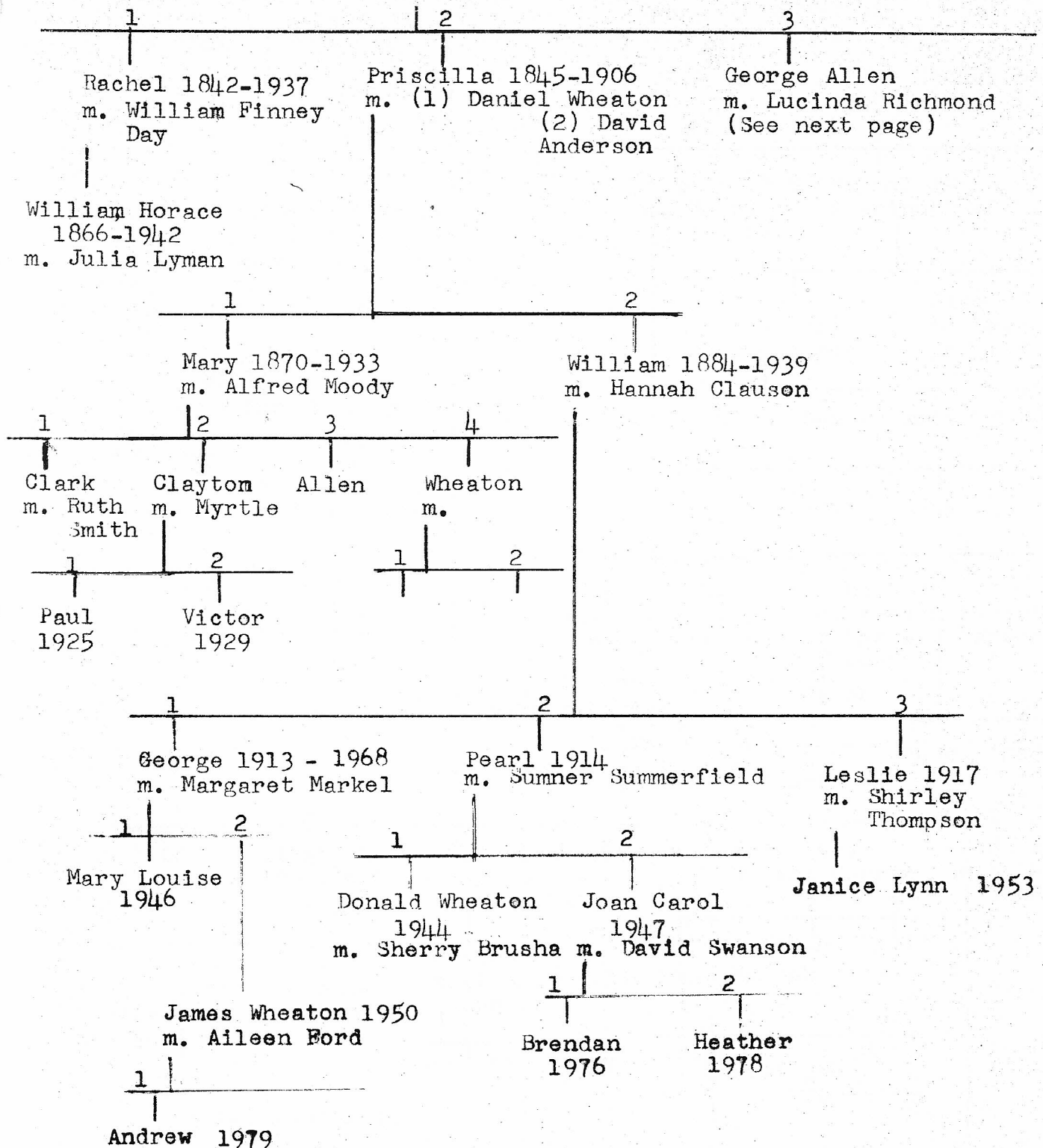
JEAN BEITH 1815 - 1898
m. William Johnston 1814 - 1900



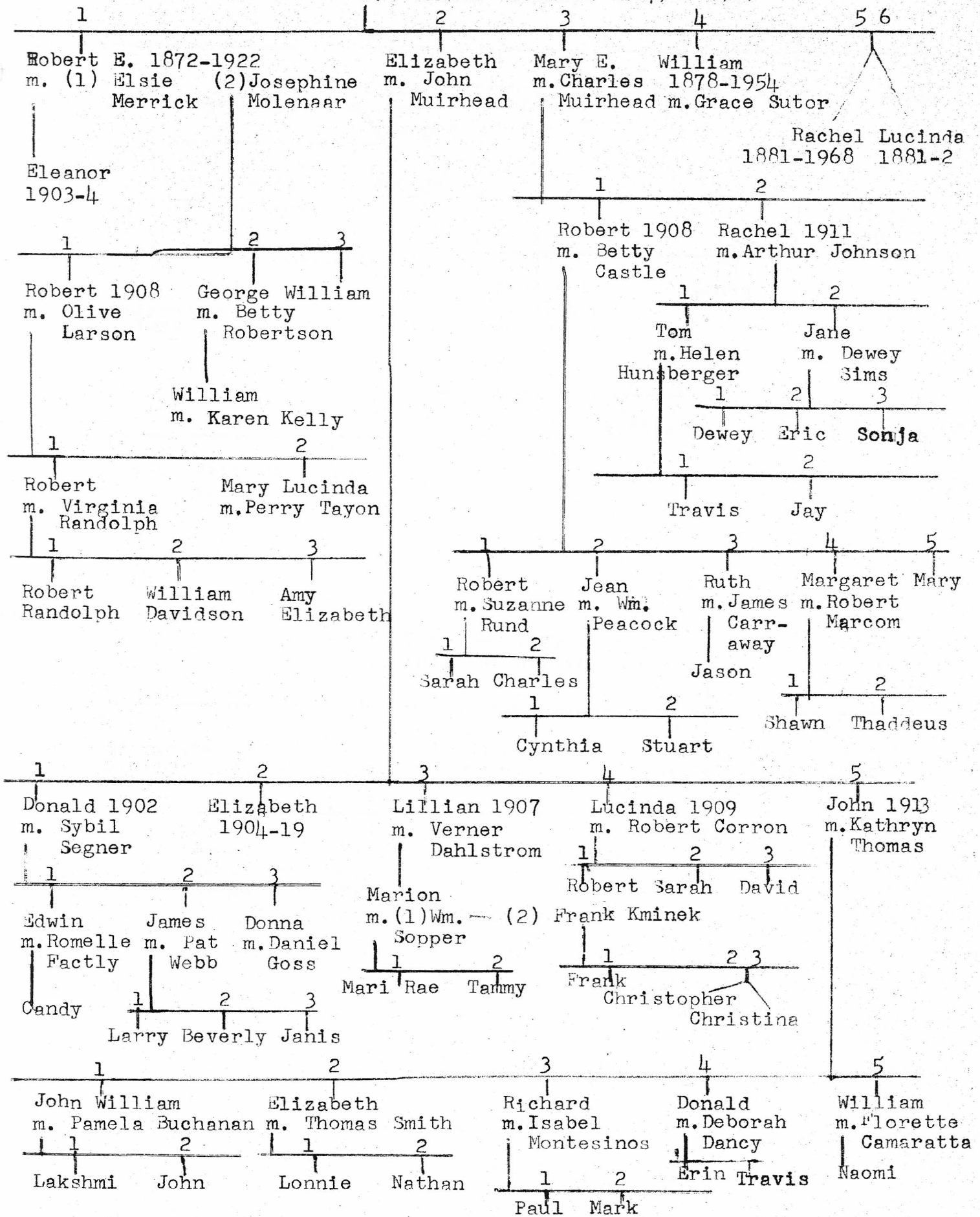
THOMAS BEITH
m.



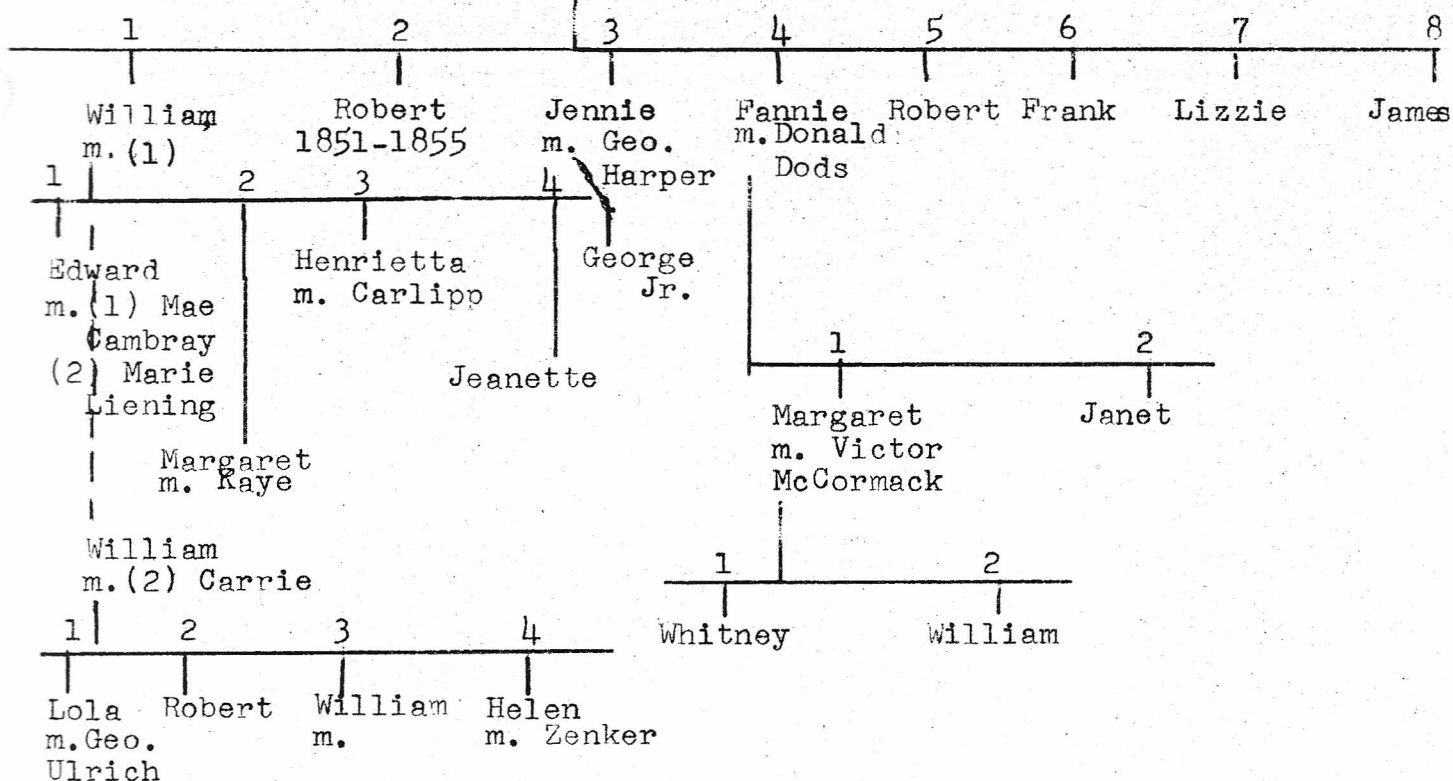
WILLIAM BEITH	1818	-	1901
m. Mary Allen	1821	-	1905



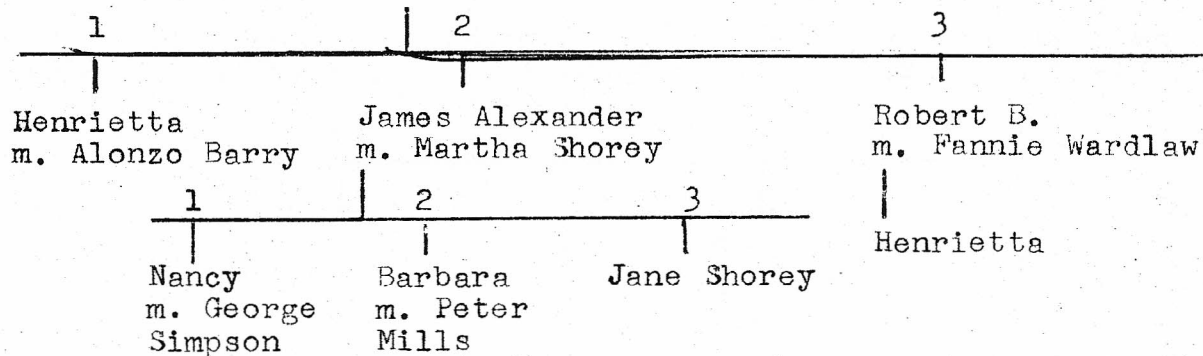
GEORGE A. BEITH 1848 - 1920
m. Lucinda Richmond 1849 - 1929



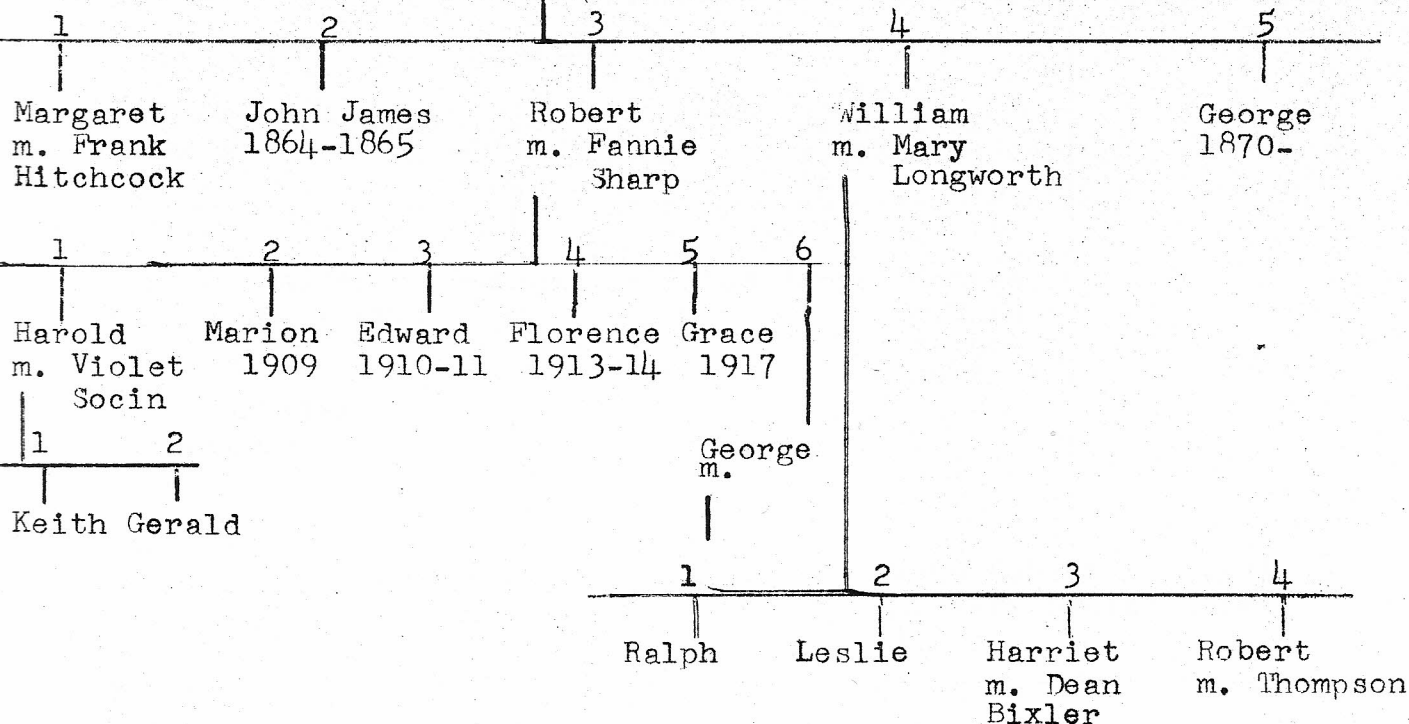
MARGARET BEITH 1825 - 1920
m. William Whitney 1818 - 1887



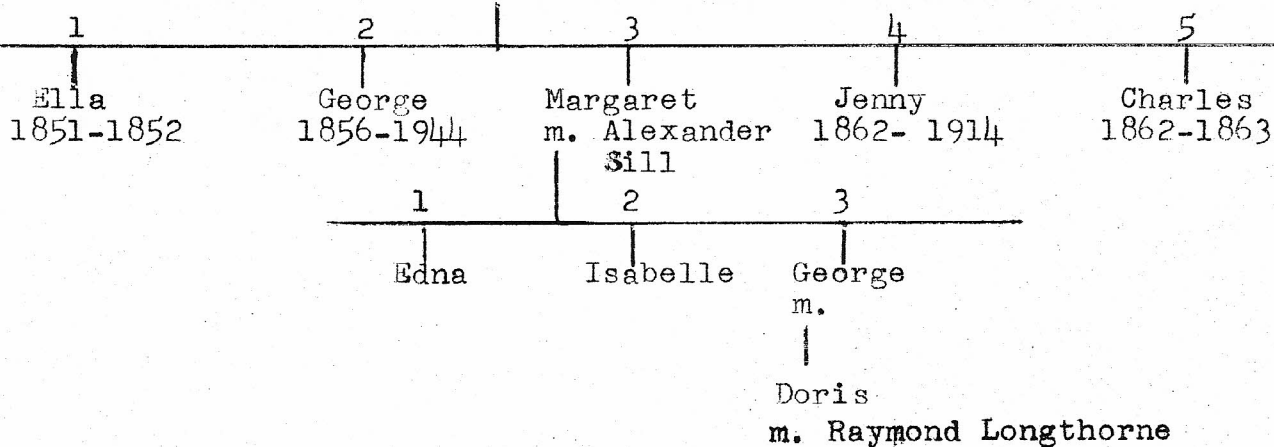
JANET BEITH 1822 - 1894
m. Alexander Miller



MARY BEITH 1829 - 1896
m. David Anderson 1823 - 1904



ISABEL BEITH 1831 - 1886
m. Andrew Weisel 1822 - 1908



ELIZABETH BEITH 1836-1922
m. John Cutler 1839-1917

Robert Harris 1876-1929
m. Sadie Ferson

John Dean (Died in action in France
World War II - 1944)

AGNES BEITH 1832 - 1917

m. (1) James Ainslee

m. (2) William Houliston

1
Margaret 1857-1924
m. Wm. Halkett

2
Mary Ella 1857-1890
m. Willis Austen

3
Jean 1861
m. Otto Grauer

1
Adelaide
m. Franz

2
Walter
m. Flora

3
George

1
William James
m.

2
George
m. Catherine
Beltz

Robert William

William

John Robert 1873-1977
m. Mary Louise Allen

1
Loretta Allen
1903

2
Mary Louise
1910

3
John Robert 1915
m. Ruth Reed

1
Barbara 1951
m. Vince Palmer

2
John Reed 1955

3
Elizabeth 1959

1
John

2
Katy

THE BEITH FAMILY

There was a considerable proportion of Scotch people among the early settlers of St. Charles. Among the prominent ones may be named the Beith family, from the old historic town of Largs, Ayrshire, Scotland. William Beith for the past twenty years or more a prominent farmer of the town of Campton, was the first of the name to reach this section. He was born in Largs in 1818, and in the spring of 1843, in company with James Moody, sailed for America. Together they traveled through the Canadas and finally reached St. Charles in the fall of the same year. They made a home with Squire Robert Moody during the next six months and concluded to settle here. The next year brought Robert Beith, father of William, and family, and also William's family, Thomas, brother of William, and family.

Robert Beith had a family of four sons and seven daughters, of whom William and all the daughters are living. The daughters are now Mrs. William Johnston, Mrs. Alexander Miller, and Mrs. William Whitney, all of Chicago; Mrs. David Anderson, Mrs. Andrew Weisel, and Mrs. John Cutler of St. Charles; and Mrs. William Houlston of Chicago.

The Beiths were mostly brought up to the trade of masons, and the father, Robert, worked into his old age with his son William with hammer and trowel. He died about 1874 at the age of 86 years. Mrs. Beith died a few years previously. The old people were fine examples of that rugged, industrious, and thrifty race which has made Scotland famous for a thousand years.

William Beith carried on an extensive business as a mason from 1843 to about 1863, in which latter year he removed to Campton and engaged in farming. During his residence in St. Charles he erected a large number of stone buildings, among which may be mentioned the west side paper mills, the barn below the east side paper mill, the large barn on the St. Charles hotel lot, the fine cut stone store of Stevens and Green, now owned by L.C. Ward; the two stores now owned by O.M. Butler on the west side of the river, erected for Messrs. Bowman and Lloyd and L.M. Blaisdell, and many other buildings in St. Charles. He also built the Batavia seminary, now used as a private insane asylum; the paper mills, the barrel factory, the Congregational church and other structures in Batavia, and in Aurora among others the Jennings seminary. In partnership with his brother-in-law, Alexander Miller, he erected a number of large warehouses in Chicago, and built and operated a grist and saw mill on his own account at Faribault, Minnesota. This property was afterwards destroyed by fire. He also did a large amount of railway work on various lines.

Since he adopted farming he has been as successful as he was in mechanical work, and from small beginnings accumulated a broad domain of over 400 acres of as fine land as can be found on the prairies of Illinois. He was the first (about 1867) to introduce the idea of tile draining into Kane County, at least on an extensive scale; and his uniform success has gradually led others to adopt the plan, and to-day, following in his lead and making the country a perfect garden, are all the farmers in northern Illinois. Mr. Beith also takes an interest in manufactures, and is a heavy stockholder in the Aurora cotton mill. He began business in St. Charles by doing a job of stone work for Ira Minard at a time when a mason received the munificent sum of 31 cents per perch for laying stone and found his own sand and mortar. He has, during his more than forty years residence in Illinois, been an untiring worker and an economical and careful manager, and now in the evening of his life can "sit under his own vine and fig tree," and enjoy the good things which his labor has gathered around him.

From An Early St. Charles History, Chap. XXIV

ST. CHARLES CHRONICLE

PASSING IN REVIEW

Reminiscences of Men Who Have Been Residents of St. Charles

The Beith Family

Robert Beith was a bluff, rugged Scotchman, a contractor and builder by trade, who came with his large family directly from Scotland and located in St. Charles in 1844. He followed his old avocation for a considerable period after settling here, and passed the remainder of his life in the town of his adoption. He was greatly skilled in his trade, and in all respects an excellent citizen. For thirty years he was a resident of St. Charles, his death occurring in 1874, three years after his wife had passed away. In his later years he became bent almost double, but with his old-time energy attended to affairs and sturdily walked about as if yet in his prime. I remember seeing him one morning, in the winter of 1872-3, walking to town from his home on Prairie Street. It was intensely cold, the mercury that morning marking nearly 30 degrees below zero, but he was without an overcoat. On his hands was a pair of heavy mittens, and on his rather prominent nose an icicle, but he plodded along the snowy street undaunted. I was on my way to work in the Transcript office, and spoke to him as I passed, asking if that was not a rather severe day for a man of his age to be out.

"Ah, weel," he replied, with his strong accent, "The road's no sae verra bad, but the weather's kin' o' could." (October 10, 1902)

William Johnston

The little stone dwelling on the east side of West First Street, just north of the Cable Piano Company's grounds, was the home for many years of William Johnston and family. Mr. Johnston was a round-faced, jolly Scotchman, who while living in Scotland worked at the weaver's trade. He came to St. Charles in the spring of 1848, and the stone house mentioned he built on the lot adjoining that of his brother-in-law, William Beith. The latter is now the Wiswell place. Mr. Johnston possessed as sunny a nature as was ever given to man. He seemed good natured and smiling under all circumstances, and a look at his genial countenance was better than a dose of medicine. While residing in St. Charles he worked with Mr. Beith at the mason's trade, at which he was certainly a master hand. Much of his handiwork is still in existence. Mr. Johnston removed to Chicago previous to 1880, I think, and the last I knew of him he was residing in that city. His two sons, William and John, also took up their residence in the same city. William adopted the law for a profession, and John engaged in the grocery business. The latter married Miss Julia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bryant Durant. (October 2, 1903)

WILLIAM BEITH. Among the many sons of "Bonnie Scotland" who have made their home in Kane County, few indeed have been more prominently identified with its building interests than this gentleman, who is noted for his genial and whole-souled characteristics of manner. He was born, February 13, 1818, in the town of Largs, Ayrshire, Scotland, fifteen miles from Greenock, and in young manhood learned the trade and business of contracting and building, with his father, Robert Beith, who all his life was identified with and carried on that line both in Scotland and in St. Charles, Kane Co., Ill. Robert Beith and his wife, Margaret (Patton) Beith, with their family of ten children, left their native land in 1844, settling in St. Charles, Ill., the same year, where they passed the remainder of their lives as highly honored and respected citizens. Mrs. Beith died in 1871, and Mr. Beith in 1874, and both were buried in St. Charles Cemetery.

William Beith came to the United States one year previous to the arrival of his father's family, locating at St. Charles, Ill., in 1843, and the following spring took his first building contract in America, which was for the erection of the Congregational Church at St. Charles. He subsequently erected many of the prominent structures at that place, including the paper mill, etc., and was largely interested in building at Batavia, inasmuch that it may be said that up to twenty years ago, or about 1865, most of the prominent buildings in that place were constructed by him. His handiwork is also largely seen in Aurora, in the buildings that he erected, among them being the Dunning Block, the basement of Jennings Seminary, the Methodist Church, etc. His operations also extended to Chicago, where, with a partner, he was largely interested in contracting and building. Until twenty-five years ago he was the most prominent contractor and builder in Kane County, but at that time he partially retired, and has since resided on Section 28, Campton Township, and occupied his time in farming pursuits. One hundred and sixty acres of the homestead were purchased by him of the United States, in 1845, but the property has been added to, so that now the farm consists of some 400 acres of as fertile land

as there is in the county, much of it rendered so by the enterprise of its owner, who thoroughly tiled low or marshy portions, until now they have become the most profitable lands on his large farm. In improving this place the laying of three or four miles of tile yearly, for several years, was a common occurrence. The family residence is a commodious structure, surrounded by substantial and convenient outbuildings, the whole being environed by well kept grounds, that are shaded by evergreens, now magnificent trees, set out twenty-four years ago by their present owner, while the buildings and other improvements are all the result of his labor and plans. A mile away, on another portion of the farm, he built, in 1886, another residence, with outbuildings, for the use of a tenant, at a cost of nearly \$4,000. Mr. Beith was largely interested in introducing and starting the manufacture of tile in Aurora, and has been active in all enterprises of a public nature calculated to benefit his vicinity or the county of his adoption.

Mr. Beith is independent in politics, an original Abolitionist; a firm believer in Christianity, and, though not now a member of any church, he was formerly a Congregationalist. He was married in the city of Glasgow, Scotland, in 1841, to Mary Allen, born in Dilry, near his native place. They have the following named children: Rachel B., born in Scotland, and brought to the United States in 1844, by her mother, who joined her husband one year after his arrival in St. Charles (Rachel B. is now the wife of Rev. W. F. Day, Congregational minister at Ottawa, Ill.); Priscilla, married to D. W. Wheaton, of the family who founded the town of Wheaton, Ill.; and George A., married to Lucinda Richmond, a daughter of A. D. Richmond, of Campton Township. George A. lives at the Beith homestead, and is known and recognized as one of the most prominent, enterprising and respected citizens of his vicinity. He and his wife have five children: Robert, Elizabeth, Mary, William and Rachel.

GEORGE A. BEITH is a prominent farmer residing on section 28, Camp-ton township. He was born in the town of St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, January 7, 1848. His parents, William and Mary (Allen) Beith, were natives of Scotland, the former born February 13, 1818, in the town of Larg, Ayrshire, Scotland, a few miles from Greenock, and in young man-hood learned the trade and business of con-tracting and building, with his father, Rob-ert Beith, who all his life carried on that line of business in Scotland and in Kane county, Illinois. Robert Beith and his wife, Margaret (Patton) Beith, with their family of ten children, left their native land in 1844, settling in St. Charles, Illinois, where they passed the remainder of their lives as highly respected and honored citizens. She died in 1871, while he survived her three years, dying in 1874. Both were buried in the St. Charles cemetery.

William Beith came to the United States one year previous to the arrival of his fa-ther's family, and his first contract in Amer-ica was for the erection of the Congrega-tional church at St. Charles, Illinois, in 1843. He subsequently erected many of the prominent structures at that place and in other parts of the county. His marriage with Mary Allen was celebrated at Glasgow in 1841. She was born at Dil-ry, near his native place.

Our subject received his education in the public schools of St. Charles, Illinois, which was supplemented by a term in Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College, Chicago. He assisted his father on the home farm from the age of fourteen until reaching ma-turity, when he took full charge and worked it on shares until 1894, at which time he purchased the entire place, consisting of four hundred acres of arable and pasture land, and has since added an acreage of seventy-two acres. He almost exclusively confines his attention to dairy farming, grow-ing only a sufficiency of oats and corn for the consumption of his cows, which number about one hundred and which he replenishes

annually with a car of new stock. The milk he ships direct from Elburn to Chi-cago. He secures bran from the Minneapo-lis mills, which mixed with the home prod-ucts, corn and oats, forms the staple food of his cattle during the year. The barns, for the cattle are all one might expect to find on one of the finest improved and best managed farms of Kane county.

Mr. Beith was married September 28, 1878, to Miss Lucinda Richmond, daughter of Almond and Hannah (Smith) Richmond, natives of Vermont, who came to Kane county at an early day and settled in Camp-ton township, where they resided until their deaths, the mother dying in March, 1895, the father in November, 1895. Both are buried in the Garfield cemetery, of Camp-ton township. To Mr. and Mrs. Beith have been born a family of six children—Robert, Elizabeth, Mary, William A., Rachel and Lucinda, twins. The last named died when an infant, while the others are living and all receiving good educations.

Our subject has two sisters. Mrs. Ra-chel Day is the wife of Rev. W. F. Day, a minister of the First Congregational church of Los Angeles, California. She has one son, a minister of the same denomination, located at Aurora, Illinois. He is a gradu-ate of Amherst College, Massachusetts, and has traveled extensively in Europe. The other sister, Priscilla, married Daniel Wheat-on, by whom she has two children—Mary, wife of Adolphus Moody, of Judsonia, Ar-kansas, and William, who lives with his mother. Daniel Wheaton died in 1896, and Priscilla is now the wife of David An-derson, of St. Charles, where she now re-sides.

Since the age of twenty-one years Mr. Beith has held the office of school director. In politics he is a Republican. With his wife and three eldest children, he is a mem-ber of the Congregational church of Elburn, in which he has been treasurer and trustee since 1891. As a citizen he has ever shown a willingness to do his part in advancing the material interest of township and county.

THE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM AND MARY BEITH

In 1844 Mary Allen Beith, with two year old Rachel, left Scotland to join her husband who had emigrated to America the year before. Rachel was educated in St. Charles, and by the time the family moved to Campton Township she was ready for college. Soon after her graduation from the newly-established Wheaton College in 1864, Rachel married Warren Finney Day, who had graduated the year before. Their only child, William Horace, was born in Bloomington, Illinois, in 1866.

Will Day was graduated from Amherst College and later studied at Oxford in London. While there he took the opportunity of spending school holidays in Scotland with relatives. In later years he told about attending church services there with a rather wealthy and elderly cousin. When the collection plate was passed to her, Will noticed that she carefully laid a penny in the plate. Like most young people, Will was quick to pass judgment and he thought to himself, "That stingy old woman! She could certainly be more generous to the church than that." Then as the plate came to him he realized that under the larger coin she had placed a gold sovereign. He said it was a rather humbling experience as it taught him not to judge others, and it made him aware that the truly generous do not make a grand show of their giving.

Like his father, Will Day became a Congregational minister, and one of the first churches he served was in Aurora. Many years later several members of the Beith family had the opportunity of hearing Will, on a visit back to Illinois, preach in this same church -- a building that had been erected by his grandfather in the 1850's. It was while he was serving the Aurora church that he married Julia Lyman. When Will's father retired from the church he had pastored in Los Angeles, Will succeeded him. Warren died in Los Angeles in 1906, so later when Will was called to a church in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Rachel moved to the new home with her son and his wife. After her husband's death Rachel traveled widely, but she always enjoyed coming back to Elburn to visit her family and bring them souvenirs of her world travels. She died May 1, 1937, in Bridgeport, Connecticut at the age of 94. Will survived his mother by only five years, passing away March 15, 1942. Julia continued to keep in touch with the Beiths until her death in 1948.

The William Beiths' second daughter, Priscilla, was born in St. Charles in 1845. In the late 1860's she married Daniel Wheaton, who had been born in Pomfret, Connecticut in 1834. Because of Daniel's health, soon after the birth of their daughter, the young couple moved to Judsonia, Arkansas, where Daniel died in 1896. Priscilla then returned to Illinois and later married David Anderson of St. Charles. She died April 3, 1906, at Bald Knob, Arkansas, and was buried beside her first husband in Judsonia.

Priscilla and Daniel's daughter Mary was born at the Beith home in Elburn in 1870. She married a Judsonian lumberman and the owner of a sawmill, Alfred Moody, and they had four sons. Mary died in Bald Knob in 1933. Three of her sons continued to live in Arkansas, but the youngest, Wheaton, moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

William Henry Wheaton was born in Arkansas, June 12, 1884, and at the age of twelve came with his mother to Illinois. On September 21, 1907, he married Hannah Clauson, who had been born in Sweden March 18, 1884. Will lived most of his life in Chicago and died there January 14. Hannah died in Wheaton April 26, 1962, and was buried with Will at the Mt. Olive Cemetery in Chicago.

Will and Hannah's oldest child, George William, was born in Chicago on June 17, 1913, and died October 20, 1968. His widow and

daughter live in Columbus, Ohio, and his son and family make their home in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The only daughter of Will and Hannah, Pearl Winifred Wheaton, was born in Chicago November 27, 1914. Her marriage to Sumner Sommerfield took place in Chicago August 10, 1942. Their oldest son, Donald Wheaton, was born in September 28, 1944 and lives in Chicago. Pearl and Sumner's daughter Joan was born April 21, 1947, and married David Richard Swanson December 27, 1969. The Swansons, with their two children, reside in Palo Alto, California. The youngest of the William Wheaton family is Leslie Henry, who was born in Chicago on March 19, 1917, and married Shirley Thompson September 26, 1942. They live in Westmont, Illinois, and their only child, Janice Lynn, who was born November 9, 1953, makes her home in Chicago.

Elburn, Illinois
June 19, 1944

Dear Classmates:

Since leaving college in 1904 my life has been rather uneventful in any spectacular way. It perhaps has been unique in this: that I am still living in the home in which I was born. First with my father and mother until 1920 when my father passed away. Nine years later Mother left me. Since that time I have been mostly alone.

On leaving college I had made all plans to teach under the A.M.A., had even secured my position, but serious illness in the home for the next number of years made it necessary to give up my plans and remain here. So my teaching has been confined to Sunday School and that over a long period.

Although having no remunerative work I have spent a very busy life, outside the home as well as in. I have done a good deal of art work, and also some commercial retouching. I have taken an especial interest in my nieces and nephews, not having a family of my own. My especial interest has been in the two sons of my oldest brother who died when they were very young.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to travel at various intervals, having visited nearly every state in the U.S.A. and also parts of Canada.

As with most lives, mine has had its ups and downs, its share of joy and deep sorrow, sickness and health, but all together, I hope it has been a profitable one. It has seemed to be my lot to perform the necessary task which lay nearest, and with an unfaltering trust in God, I have tried to do this to the best of my knowledge and ability.

Sincerely,

Rachel L. Beith

(The foregoing letter was written by Rachel Beith on the occasion of the 40th reunion of the Wheaton College Class of 1904.)

ROBERT E. BEITH

Robert E. Beith, who is successfully engaged in farming and dairying in Campton Township, Kane County, Illinois, was born in that township on July 8, 1872, and is descended from a good old Scotch family. His paternal grandfather, William Beith, was born in the land of hills and heather and emigrated to the United States in the early '40s, becoming a resident of St. Charles, Illinois.

George A. Beith, the father of our subject, was born in St. Charles and possesses many of the sterling characteristics of the sturdy Scotch race from which he springs. In 1871 he was united in marriage with Miss Lucinda Richmond, who was born in Campton Township, and they have six children: Robert E., Elizabeth, the wife of John Muirhead, who is engaged in farming at Plato Center; Mary, the wife of Charley Muirhead, also a farmer of Plato Center; William A., a farmer living near Elburn; Lucinda, deceased; and Rachel, at home.

Robert E. Beith obtained his primary education in the district schools and at the age of twenty took a commercial course at the Metropolitan Business College in Chicago, and on leaving that institution returned to his home near Elburn. He then aided his father in the operation of the farm and since 1898 they have carried on the business in partnership. In connection with farming they do a large dairy business keeping forty cows for that purpose, and they also raise stock for market, shipping two or three carloads annually.

Mr. Beith has been twice married, his first wife being Elsie Merrick, by whom he had one daughter, Eleanor, but both are now deceased. For his second wife he married Josephine Molenarr, who was born in Blue Island, Illinois. Mr. Beith is a supporter of the Republican party and a member of the Congregational Church. Wherever known he is held in high regard and those who have known him from childhood are numbered among his warmest friends, which indicates an upright, honorable life.

WILLIAM A. BEITH

Among the progressive and enterprising agriculturists of Campton Township is numbered William A. Beith, who was born in Campton, September 1, 1878, and is a son of George and Lucinda Richmond Beith. Upon the home farm our subject grew to manhood and attended the Stewart district school. For three years he was a student at Elburn High School, from which he was graduated and then entered Wheaton College, where he pursued a classical course, and was graduated in 1903, with an AB degree.

Sickness in the family of his brother then forced him to return home and he has since devoted his time and energies to agricultural pursuits. He resides in a beautiful country home, surrounded by fine shade trees, and there is a spring upon the place which affords water the year round for his herds of stock. The farm is conveniently located three miles northeast of Elburn and is a part of a magnificent five hundred acre estate belonging to his father. He is interested in dairying and keeps thirty cows for that purpose.

In 1905 Mr. Beith was united in marriage to Miss Grace Sutor, who was born in Chicago and received her education in the public schools of that city and also at Wheaton College. Mr. Beith is a man of studious habits, being familiar with the best literature. In politics he is a staunch abolitionist, and as a public spirited and progressive citizen he gives his support to every enterprise which he believes will advance the intellectual, moral and social welfare of his community.

The above biographies appeared in the History of Kane County, Ill.
Volume II 1908

**THE SUDDEN PASSING
OF MRS. GEORGE BEITH
April 23, 1929**

News of the sudden death of Mrs. George Beith was a shock to this community, Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Beith and daughter Rachel had spent Tuesday with Mrs. Chas. Muirhead in Elgin. On returning home Mrs. Beith complained of being tired but ate a hearty meal and retired about ten o'clock. At about ten thirty she awakened her daughter and complained of not feeling well. Miss Beith immediately called her brother William and also Dr. Calhoun. Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Beith Beith arrived immediately as did Dr. Calhoun.

With apparently no pain Mrs. Beith passed away at about 11:30, being nearly eighty years old.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow, Friday afternoon, at two o'clock from the family residence, Rev. Clark officiating. Interment will be in Elburn cemetery with B. H. Conley, Mortician, in charge.

OBITUARY

Lucinda Richmond Beith was born in Campton township, Oct. 30th, 1849. She was the third of a family of six children, Miss Luthera Richmond, Mr. Luellyn Richmond, Mrs. Elizabeth Neville and Mr. Earnest Richmond, all of whom are still living, and Mrs. Elsie Bartlett, deceased.

September 21st, 1871, she was united in marriage to George A. Beith, who passed from this life May 20th, 1920. To this union were born six children, Mrs. John Muirhead of Plato Center, Ill., Mrs. Chas. Muirhead of Elgin, Miss Rachel Beith and W. A. Beith of Elburn. Robert E. Beith who passed away February 9th, 1922, and Mable Lucinda who died in infancy. There are also eight grand children besides numerous relatives and a host of friends to mourn her death.

All her life was spent in Campton and Elburn. She was a charter member of the Community Congregational Church and up to the time of her death was an active worker of the church.

**DR. DAY'S MOTHER
DIES IN 95TH YEAR**

2/20/57
**Came to Bridgeport Shortly
after Son Became Pastor
of United Church.**

Mrs. Rachel Crawford Beith Day, mother of the Rev. Dr. William Horace Day who is pastor of the United Congregational church, died late yesterday afternoon at his home, 464 Park place.

She was 94 and had been an invalid for the past ten years.

Mrs. Day, widow of the Rev. Dr. Warren Finney Day, came to Bridgeport shortly after her son was appointed pastor of the United Church which this week paid him honor as he marked his 20th anniversary here.

She was well known to many members of the church and spent a great deal of time in church activities until she was stricken ill.

Mrs. Day was born in Largs, Scotland, Aug. 17, 1842, the daughter of the late William and Mary Allan Beith. She came to this country at the age of two.

Her girlhood days were spent in St. Charles, Ill. She received her B. A. degree from Wheaton college and there met the Rev. Warren Finney Day whom she later married. She lived in Galesburg and Saginaw, Mich., Ottawa, Ill., and Los Angeles, Cal., where her husband held pastorates in the First Congregational churches. Her son is the only surviving relative.

Funeral services will be held at the Park place address Monday. The Rev. Oscar E. Maurer, pastor of the Center Congregational church of New Haven, and the Rev. Fred Hoskins, associate pastor of the United Congregational church, will officiate. Interment will be at the convenience of the family.

1919
Mary Elizabeth Muirhead.

Mary Elizabeth Muirhead died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Muirhead of Plato Center, last night at 11:55 o'clock following a lingering illness. She was born in Plato, November 25, 1904.

Besides her parents, she is survived by two brothers, Donald and John, two sisters, Lillian and Lucinda of Plato Center.

The funeral will be held from the home Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock and at 2 o'clock from the Plato Center church. Burial will be at the Plato cemetery.

1920
George A. Beith.

George A. Beith died at 9:30 o'clock Thursday, May 20, at his home in Campton township, near Elburn, at the age of seventy-two years.

He was born in St. Charles, January 7, 1848, and when young moved to his present home farm in Campton, where he has since resided. He was married to Miss Lucinda Richmond, September 21, 1871.

Besides Mrs. Beith, five children survive, two sons and three daughters: Robert E., William A. and Miss Rachel L. Beith, all of Elburn; Mrs. John Muirhead of Plato Center and Mrs. Charles G. Muirhead, 250 Hamilton avenue, Elgin. One daughter died in infancy. Eight grandchildren also survive.

Brief services will be held at the home at 1:30 o'clock and regular funeral services at 2 o'clock at the Elburn Congregational church. Rev. William F. Kettle, an old friend and former pastor, will officiate. Burial will be made at the Elburn cemetery.

**Lifelong Beith Road
resident dies at 86**

May 14, 1968

Miss Rachel L. Beith, 86, of Beith Rd., Elburn died Tuesday morning at Community Hospital, Geneva, where she had been a patient for the past week. She was born Oct. 21, 1881 in Campton Township in her present residence.

She was the daughter of George A. and Lucinda Richmond Beith.

Miss Beith was a graduate of Wheaton College in 1904 and except for private tutoring spent her lifetime taking care of her parents and the family home. She also was an avid painter.

Miss Beith was a member of the Community Congregational Church of Elburn, the Church Guild, and was active in the choir and taught Sunday School.

She is survived by eight nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Thursday at 2:30 p.m. at the Conley Funeral Home in Elburn. Rev. Leon Willhite of the Congregational Church officiated with interment in Blackberry Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Congregational Church.

LIFE OF R. E. BEITH
CLOSED THIS MORNING
Feb. 9, 1922
Death Was Result of Pneumonia.—
Funeral Is Saturday at 2:15 at
Home of Mrs. G. A. Beith

At 2:30 this morning the life of Robert E. Beith came to a close at his home three miles northeast of Elburn. The result was due to pleura-pneumonia.

Mr. Beith had been in declining health for several weeks prior to contracting pneumonia a month ago. His illness was serious at the start. A week ago he underwent an operation, which seemingly proved beneficial, but he was too weak to overcome the effects of the disease.

Robert E. Beith was born July 8, 1872, in Campton township, and passed from this life at his home north of Elburn February 9, 1922. In the fall of the year 1898 he was united in marriage to Miss Elsie Merriek of Elburn, who departed this life in the spring of the year 1903, leaving a daughter besides her husband to mourn her loss. The daughter, Eleanor, followed the mother in death a year later.

In December, 1905, R. E. Beith was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Molenaar of Blue Island, Illinois, who still survives him. To this union were born three children: Robert Allen, George Henry, and William; of these two survive, William dying in the year 1916. Besides these there are left to mourn his loss the mother, Mrs. G. A. Beith, of Elburn; one brother, William, also of Elburn, and three sisters, Mrs. John Muirhead of Plato Center, Mrs. Charles Muirhead of Elgin, and Miss Rachel Beith of Elburn at home.

Services Held For William A. Beith 1955 Tuesday, August 16

The funeral service for William A. Beith, 76, of Elburn, was held Tuesday afternoon, August 16, at 2:30 o'clock at the Elburn Community Congregational Church. The Reverends John M. Hoffmann, pastor of the Elburn church, and Raymond Caldwell, pastor of the Batavia Congregational Church and former Elburn pastor, officiated. Interment was in Blackberry Cemetery.

Mr. Beith passed away Saturday evening, August 13, at the Geneva Community Hospital where he had

been a patient for several weeks. He was born September 1, 1878 in Campton Township, the son of George A. and Lucinda Richmond Beith. On August 29, 1905 he was united in marriage to Grace Sutor at Clyde, Illinois.

In addition to his family responsibilities, Mr. Beith distinguished himself early in life as a religious and civic leader, as well as a prominent farmer. He was past president and member of the Elburn High School board of education and the Stewart School board for many years, a County School trustee, and spent many years on the Boy Scout Troop Committee. He also served as a member of the St. Charles Draft Board during and after World War II. He was a member and past president of the Kane County Farm Bureau and had been secretary of the Elburn Co-Operative Company since 1921. During most of this same period he was Superintendent of the Sunday School and several times president of the Board of Trustees of the Community Congregational Church, having been a member of that board for over 35 years. He was also past moderator of the Northern Association of Illinois Conference of Congregational and Christian Churches.

Surviving are his wife, Grace; three sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Muirhead of Plato, Mrs. Mame Muirhead of Elgin and Rachel Beith of rural Elburn; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Robert.

A memorial fund has been established in his memory. Memorial may be sent to the William A. Beith Memorial Fund in care of the Community Congregational Church, Elburn.

June 16, 1962

Mrs. John Muirhead, 88, Of Plato Center Dies

Mrs. John (Elizabeth) Muirhead, 88, of Plato Center, died Saturday afternoon at St. Joseph Hospital following an illness of the past two months.

She was born Oct. 11, 1873, at Elburn, daughter of the late George and Lucinda Richmond Beith, and had resided in Plato Center for the past 61 years. She and John Muirhead were married Jan. 7, 1901.

She was a member of the Plato Methodist Church and the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the church.

Survivors are the widower, John Muirhead; two daughters, Mrs.

Verner (Lillian) Dahlstrom of Rt. 2, Elgin, and Mrs. Robert (Lucinda) Corron of Wasco; two sons, Donald B. and John M. Muirhead, both of Plato Center; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and a sister, Miss Rachel Beith of Elburn.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Elizabeth, in 1919, two brothers and one sister.

Funeral services will be held at 3 Tuesday at Plato Methodist Church with the Rev. Joe Gibbons, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Plato Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Stout Funeral Home, Elgin.

Mrs. Muirhead Dies At Age 84

August 7, 1960

Mrs. Mary Beith Muirhead, 84, of 250 Hamilton Ave., died Sunday in Mary Margaret Home following an extended illness. She was born at Elburn Sept. 28, 1875, daughter of the late George A. and Lucinda Richmond Beith, and had lived in Elgin for the past 43 years.

A member of First Congregational Church, she had been a past president of the Women's Fellowship of the church, and was a charter member of the church's Golden Years group.

She was the widow of Charles G. Muirhead, who died Sept. 18, 1942. Surviving are a son, Robert B., of Plato Center; a daughter, Mrs. Arthur A. (Rachel) Johnson, of Elgin; seven grandchildren and a great-granddaughter; two sisters, Mrs. John (Elizabeth) Muirhead Sr., of Plato Center, and Miss Rachel L. Beith, of Elburn. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert and William A. Beith.

Services will be at 1:30 p. m. Tuesday in the Stout Funeral Home, Rev. Thomas C. McQueen, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Glencoe, officiating in the vacation absence of Dr. Jesse Pindell Peirce. Burial will be in Plato Center Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home.

A memorial has been established for Elgin Congregational Church.

IT'S A HAPPY WEDLOCK.

January 7, 1901

WELL KNOWN YOUNG PEOPLE.

Take the Sacred Vows Which Unite Their
 Hearts and Destinies Miss Eliz-
 abeth Beith and John Muirhead.

A quiet home wedding was that of Miss Hannah Elizabeth Beith and John Muirhead which was solemnized at 3 o'clock, Monday afternoon, at the home of the bride's parents Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Beith, two miles north of town.

The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. W. Norris, and was witnessed by a company of about seventy relatives of the young couple.

As Mrs. Robert Beith played the wedding march, the young couple entered the parlor unattended, and took the vows of the simple yet impressive ceremony.

The bride was becomingly attired in pearl colored crepe de chine over white silk.

After the congratulations and best wishes of the assembly had been offered, the company partook of a bounteous wedding repast.

The newly married couple were the recipients of many handsome and useful gifts.

The bride is a graduate of Wheaton college and is a young lady of exceptional talents, and of a quiet and unassuming disposition. She has been a prominent worker in the Congregational church.

The groom is a well known and prosperous young farmer at Plato Center, where they will make their home after a brief wedding tour.

Their friends unite with the record in wishing them a most happy and prosperous future.

EXPLAINS HOW ANDERSON BLVD. WAS NAMED

Dear Mr. Sauers:

Often someone asks why Anderson Boulevard, the fine boulevard which connects State st. in Geneva with St. Charles and is an extension of our Third st. south, is named "Anderson." An article which appeared in the Geneva Republican on May 17,

14 Elgin (Ill.) Daily Courier-News May 4, 1964

Laughter Is A Gift

Congregational Minister Helps Young Newlywed

By RUTH DISTELHORST
 Church Editor

Editor's note: This is one of a series of stories about the lighter side of solemn church events.

Digging happily through the old records of First Congregational Church, the Rev. Dr. Russell Neil Kerr, minister, found a story about Elgin's Rev. Dr. J. H. Seldon and the Rev. W. F. Day of Aurora.

The young Rev. Mr. Day had just been married and did not wish to be in his pulpit so soon after his honeymoon. An exchange of pulpits was arranged with Dr. Seldon.

Everything would have worked out fine except that a member of the Aurora church was visiting in Elgin and told the Elgin choir director that a newlywed would be in the pulpit Sunday.

The director dared the organist to play Lohengrin's wedding march and the dare was taken.

After the Rev. Mr. Day had finished his sermon, the organist played a brilliant roll and led into the wedding march instead of the last hymn.

The records report that the Rev. Mr. Day said, "I might as well have stayed at home."

1951 gives the answer. That article follows:

ANDERSON BOULEVARD RESIDENTS

A letter in a recent issue of the Geneva Republican states that though living in close proximity to Anderson Boulevard for a number of years, the writer does not know, and doubts that few others can enlighten any one as to the origin of the name of this street therefor he suggests changing the name from Anderson Boulevard to MacArthur Boulevard.

In reply to the above statement the writer of this letter whose forefathers were early settlers in this section, and whose family lived here at the time the street was surveyed in 1893, is offering information on the origin of the name.

Dana Anderson, for whom the street was named, was a Scotchman born near Glasgow, Scotland in 1823. He traced his ancestry back through a long line of men and women prominent in the history of Scotland. He came to this country in 1846, locating first in Chicago where he lived until the early 1860's locating then in St. Charles. Here he purchased land from time to time until he owned three hundred acres lying in both St. Charles and Geneva Townships. A portion of his land was platted as

an addition to St. Charles and much of it built up to fine homes, among them a stone house in which he resided. A strip of land one hundred feet wide containing 11 acres, was deeded to the township for the boulevard which connects two cities, St. Charles and Geneva.

Mr. Anderson was associated with many business enterprises in St. Charles and also engaged in dairying and farming. He was a member of the Congregational church in St. Charles, being one of its active officers for many years. He and his wife not only gave liberally to the church but to many other philanthropic enterprises. He died in 1904.

(Name Withheld)

The stone house in which Dana Anderson lived stood on S. Geneva rd. near the present Arbizani home. Later it was bought by Mount St. Mary's Academy and used as a boys' school. It finally burned. There was a tiny cemetery back of the house which had about a dozen headstone bearing the names of Moody and Young. This was one of the many little family burying grounds scattered throughout our township.

Dana Anderson was a great uncle of Helen Gillies who died this summer.

Alice L. Davis
 633 Geneva rd.

Another Old Settler Gone.

In August, 1842, two bachelor brothers came to Campton in search of a home. They stopped at the house of Eber Chaffee (Mrs. Anna Davis Chaffee being a cousin of the strangers). Uncle Eber took them over the country to look for vacant lands, that is, land upon which no squatter had pitched his cabin, also to make the acquaintance of the neighboring settlers, especially those who hailed from Vermont, the newcomers being direct from the Green Mountains, a fact which opened the homes of the "Yankees" of Campton for their hospitality. They selected the south half of section 28 as site of future homes mainly because it was contiguous to the brushy timber which covered a portion of their selection. Paying a small sum to Uncle Simeon Ryder to extinguish his supposed squatter rights in the brushy portion of their selection, the older brother returned to Vermont for the winter while the younger staid by to watch the "claim" and to make payment on the same to "Uncle Sam" as soon as the land embraced in "Range 7 West" should be offered for sale at the register's office in Chicago, which event took place in February 1843.

Thus Almond Deane and Moses C. Richmond became citizens of Campton (then Fairfield), Ill.

Almond Deane Richmond, the subject of this sketch, was born near Belows Falls, Vermont, December 24, 1814. His desire to return to Vermont was explained a year later when he returned with a New England house-keeper, Hannah Smith, of Grafton, Vt., sister of Ansel Smith who spent some years in St. Charles as teacher, editor and so on during the later '40s; also half sister to Mrs. Daniel Lincoln, late of St. Charles. Their marriage occurring August 17th, 1843, was immediately followed by their departure for the western home, spending the honeymoon investigating the windings of the Erie Canal and great lakes. Accompanied by their aged father Ephraim Richmond they landed at Garfield's log tavern about September 1. Finding the old log school-house in vacation they set up their household goods therein, pending the erection of a habitation on the farm which, up to date, had been occupied by grass only.

Being now joined by the younger brother, Moses C., they soon had a small house and prairie stable ready for occupancy. Meanwhile Moses C. was united in marriage to Susan H. Garfield (Oct. 26, 1843). The succeeding four years both families occupied the original 2-room dwelling erected as above, the brothers working together early and late to open their farm. To paraphrase Whittier a little an observer could well say for them—

"Each day dawn saw some task begin,
Each sunset saw it close."

So full of life were they that in the seasons of long evenings Moses invariably worked at his shoe bench until nine or ten o'clock, while "Deane" would accompany the "rat-tat" of the shoe hammer with the notes of the "White Cockade" or "Dog and Gun," repeated for the hundredth or hundred thousandth time, upon a well worn violin.

It may interest some of the readers to know what was deemed necessary for a beginner launching in the farming business in 1843. Here is how it stood with our Yankee friends to wit: Household goods for two couples inside; outside, one yoke of oxen, one cow and one dozen chickens each, one ox-sled, one breaking plow and one second hand wagon, owned and used in company. Small outfit, you say. Aye, but their needs were small, and they purposely kept them so that that might happen which has finally come to pass, to-wit: That those farms opened through their toil should pass through their posterity unvexed by any usurer's mortgage. Nor was theirs a single or even peculiar instance. The old log school-house was a breathing home for parties both before and after their occupancy and with them, wealthy in hopes merely, "Uncle Al" (as he was called by everybody) was as fond of mirth as a school boy; so that in those early days when the school boys of Campton sought to make their annual display (well named exhibitions) he was always there, ready to furnish music in any quantity, and until the smallest boy was satisfied. He was equally ready with his violin at the elder people's gatherings on Christmas and Thanksgiving days. There was still another charm that added to his friendships, and that was the innocent but unflinching honesty that stamped his character through and

through. In his sight his neighbors right were as sacred as his own. Living fifty-three years in our midst his name has never yet appeared as plaintiff or defendant in any court of our county. For many years he has suffered growing deafness that made conversation with him very unsatisfactory. In his isolation he sought his own solace, work. A little exposure, a little fever ended his work on the 21st inst. Six children survive, the wife and mother having passed away on the 16th of March last.

Farewell, old friend; thou art welcome to well earned rest,

"Nor dare we hint
That kindly nature did him wrong
Softly to disengage the vital chord."

E. F. GARFIELD.

MRS. ELIZABETH HANNAH NEVILLE

Mrs. Elizabeth Hannah Neville, 84 years old, widow of George Neville, died at her home in Elgin last night. She was born in Campton Township, June 8, 1855, and spent her entire life in this vicinity.

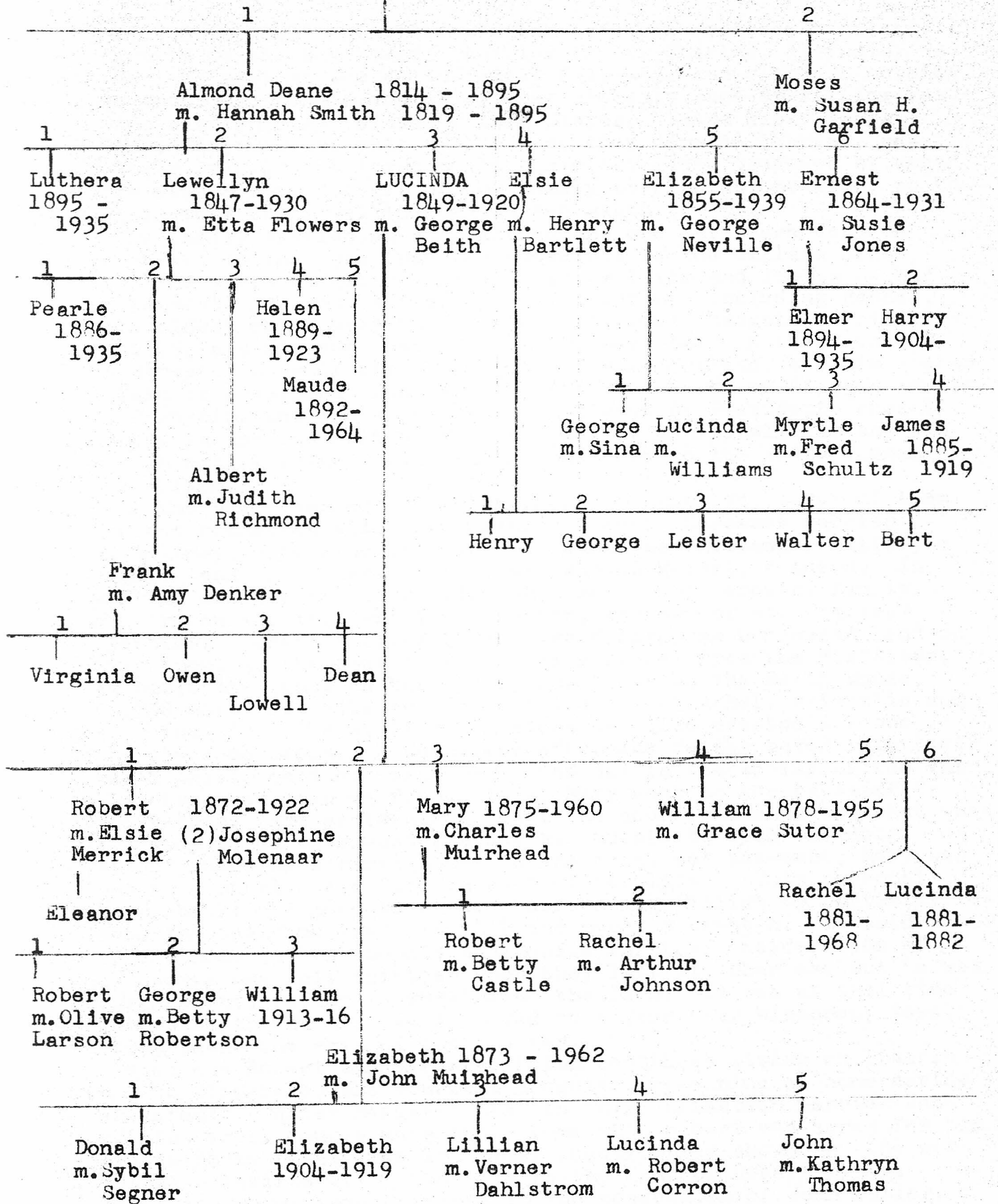
Survivors are two children: Myrtle E. Schultz, with whom she lived here, and a son, George, of Batavia. There are nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 Wednesday afternoon at the Russell C. Norris funeral home in St. Charles, with the Rev. Roland E. Turnbull, pastor of the Batavia Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in the Garfield Cemetery.

(Elgin-Courier News)

1939

EPHRIAM RICHMOND 1782 - 1846
m. Elizabeth 1778 - 1836



A PERSONAL HISTORY

It was in 1843 that William Beith left his Scottish homeland and emigrated to the New World, locating in St. Charles, Illinois. A year later the rest of the Beith family followed, and although nothing is known about the long ocean trip, they probably came by sailing vessel to the eastern coast of the United States. Years later Agnes Beith Houliston, who was only twelve when they came to America, recalled their trip from Chicago to St. Charles. They traveled by wagon, but there wasn't room for all of the family to ride at one time, so the Beith girls took turns walking behind the wagon.

The family settled on an eighteen and one half acre farm on Prairie Street on what was then the outskirts of the village of St. Charles. The three oldest Beiths -- Jean, William and Thomas -- had married in Scotland, and several of the children, including Rachel, William's oldest child, were born there. William's daughter, Priscilla born in 1845, and his son George in 1848, were born in the house on Prairie Street. Shortly after he arrived from Scotland, William staked out a claim to government land about seven miles west of St. Charles in Campton Township, and the homestead deed signed by President James K. Polk is now in the possession of George Beith. While William and his father were establishing themselves as builders in the area, Thomas worked the farm.

As the years passed the Beith daughters married, three of them marrying men connected with the building trade: Margaret married William Whitney, a teaming contractor; Janet wed Alexander Miller, a millwright; and Isabelle's husband was Andrew Weisel, a mason. In 1849 William decided he needed his own home for his growing family. From his brother-in-law, William Johnston, and two of St. Charles' early settlers, Darwin Millington and Ira Minard, he purchased land on the river front at the cost of \$80. Using stones from the Fox River, William built the house on the river, now known as the Beith House, and in 1850 moved his wife and three children -- Rachel, Priscilla and George -- into it. The William Johnstons had also erected a stone house in the same block. A few years after the Beiths moved into their new home a tragic accident occurred. One day in the spring of the year when the river had reached flood stage, Mary went to the basement to sprout potatoes. She accidentally shut the door in such a way that when she was ready to go back upstairs she was unable to open the door. As a result of spending several hours in the cold, wet basement, Mary was confined to a wheel chair for the rest of her life. This personal tragedy probably had much to do with persuading William to partially retire from the building trade in 1861 and move to Campton. He sold their river-front home to Mrs. Sophie Ann Moodie for the consideration of \$1000. George was only thirteen when they left St. Charles, but he was a big help to his father in working on the farm. It was at that time that Thomas Beith and his family moved to a farm near Winthrop, Iowa, where they spent the rest of their lives.

Meantime Robert and Margaret Beith continued living on Prairie Street with Elizabeth, the youngest daughter, remaining at home caring for her parents. After Margaret died in 1872, Elizabeth married John Cutler. The young couple made their home with Robert and cared for him until his death in 1875. The 1871 Kane County Atlas shows an 18½ acre farm on the outskirts of St. Charles in the name of Robert Beith. The 1892 Atlas shows the same property in the possession of John Cutler, but totaling 24½ acres, Cutler having also acquired the six acre farm

just west of the Beith property. The Cutlers continued to live on the farm until they moved into town to a home on 4th Street. Today the Beith-Cutler land is a part of the city of St. Charles, and although the original house still stands it has been remodeled and looks very much like the other houses in the block. (It is the second house west of 7th Street on the south side of Prairie Street. There is also a Cutler Street which runs parallel to and south of Prairie Street.)

Moving to the farm did not prevent William from pursuing his chosen trade. Since there was plenty of farm help available at that time, he hired others to do much of the actual farming while he used his knowledge of masonry to tile the land to make it more productive.

In 1871 William's son George married Lucinda Richmond and took over the management of the farm. By 1877 George's three children -- Robert, Elizabeth and Mame -- and his parents had filled the small country home to overflowing, so the present Beith house was built. The old house was closer to the road, a few yards in front of the site of the present house. The most distinctive feature of the new house was the cupola, which gives one a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside. The house was built for two families, and the east side of the house on the first floor was used as an apartment for William and Mary. There were two rooms, a bedroom and a living room, and a small area which was later used as a bathroom. The grandparents had no need of kitchen facilities as they ate with George's family.

In the next few years three more children were born to George and Lucinda -- William and twins Rachel and Lucinda, but Lucinda lived only a year. The Beiths always had at least two hired men, and with the children and an invalid mother-in-law Lucinda's days were busy, although much of the time she had a hired girl. There were also frequent and often extended visits to the farm by William's sisters and their families. Elizabeth often told how her grandmother, since she was confined to a wheel chair, wrote a great many letters. Then she would lick glue off the stamps and envelopes, and the granddaughters would have to make paste with flour and water. Most of the time in summer, with extra workmen and visiting relatives, the Beith children had to eat at the second table. One can imagine how much time must have been spent in preparing food, washing dishes, and doing the laundry, without the help of the modern conveniences we enjoy today.

In 1892 George bought the farm and when Rob married in 1898 father and son worked the farm together. In order to have a home for the newly-weds, a house was built directly across from the family home. Some years before William and George had built a tenant house about a mile northeast of the home farm. It was here that William's sister and brother-in-law, Isabelle and Andrew Weisel, spent the later years of their life. Their two children, George and Jenny, resided here until they retired to Elgin to live with a sister, Margaret Sill and her family.

Upon his graduation from college William, George's second son, joined his father and brother in the operation of the farm. When Will married in 1905, he and his bride moved into the home where the Weisels had lived. As the years passed George gradually turned over the management of the farm to his sons. When Rob moved to Michigan in 1910, Will moved into Rob's house.

During George and Lucinda's later years they enjoyed traveling with their daughter Rachel. While wintering in Florida in 1920, George was taken sick, and upon returning home in March his illness was diagnosed as cancer. After six weeks of intense suffering George

passed away on May 20. Lucinda survived her husband by nine years, dying very suddenly April 23, 1929.

ROBERT EPHRAIM BEITH

Robert Ephraim, oldest child of Lucinda and George, was born July 8, 1872. When he was a baby he was stricken with a severe illness which left him with one leg shorter than the other, so that he was handicapped with a limp all his life. His marriage to Elsie Merrick ended in tragedy when his wife died in childbirth in 1903. His mother and sister Mame helped in caring for the motherless baby, but a year later Baby Eleanor died. In 1905 Rob married Josephine Molenaar, and with the birth of Robert Allen on November 22, 1908, life had new meaning for Rob and Jo. In 1910 the family moved to Michigan, and on August 11, 1911, George Henry was born. The family circle was complete in 1913 with the birth of William. Two years later they moved back to Elburn, taking up residence in the Weisel home. In 1916 Rob and his family suffered another tragedy when three year old Willie stepped on a rusty nail, causing blood poisoning, lockjaw and finally his death. In 1922, at the age of 50, Rob died of pneumonia. During his short life time Rob had suffered much heartache, but was always gentle, quiet, kind, and considerate of others.

After Rob's death Jo and the boys moved to Elgin, where she took a job at the Elgin National Watch Company, and the boys attended the Elgin schools. In 1929 Jo married George Austen, and they made their home in Joliet until his death in 1942. Jo then returned to her old home in Elgin, where she lived until the 1960's when George and Betty provided an apartment for her in their home. Now, at the age of 96, she continues to live with George and Betty in their new home on the Beith homestead in sight of the house where she lived with Rob and her boys more than sixty years ago. Reminiscing with her about the old days is always a delight, but she is equally interested in present day events and people.

While quite young Robert Allen became interested in radios, so when he finished school he became involved in the radio business. Later he opened an appliance store in St. Charles which he still operates. On October 28, 1937, he married Olive Larson, and they have two children, Robert Jr. and Mary Lucinda. Robert married Virginia Randolph, and with their three children they now reside in Palatine. Mary teaches school, and she and her husband, Perry Tayon, live near Olive and Robert in West Chicago.

While George was attending Elgin High School he worked for the Beck Stationery store in Elgin. This job led to his association with a paper company where he is still employed. His marriage to Elizabeth Robertson of Oak Park was solemnized February 1, 1941. Their son William was born in 1952, and he and his wife, the former Karen Kelly, reside in Elgin.

HANNAH ELIZABETH BEITH MUIRHEAD

The oldest Beith daughter, Elizabeth, was born October 11, 1873, and received her education at the Stewart School and Wheaton Academy. During her girlhood, in addition to helping her parents on the farm, Lizzie was involved in various church activities and also did oil paintings. On January 7, 1901, she married John Muirhead of Plato Center and they lived on a farm south of Plato until 1937 when they retired to

their newly built home in Plato Center. They were members of the Plato Methodist Church, and all their lives took an active interest in church and community affairs. They were blessed with a long, happy life together, observing their sixty-first anniversary before Elizabeth's death in 1962. John passed away almost two years later at the age of 95.

Their oldest son Donald was born March 1, 1902, and after graduating from high school worked with his father on the farm. Later he moved to a farm in Campton Township, which John and Elizabeth had purchased a few years earlier. On February 14, 1941, he married Sybil Segner and adopted her two sons, Edwin and James. Ed and his wife Sue live in Dallas, Texas, while Jim and Pat, with their three children make their home in West Lake Village, California. Donna, Donald and Sybil's daughter, married Daniel Goss, and they reside in Haverhill, Massachusetts. A few years ago Donald and Sybil sold their farm and moved to Mesa, Arizona, where they are enjoying golf and the sunny, warm climate of the Southwest.

John and Elizabeth's oldest daughter, Elizabeth, was born November 25, 1904. After she started school she had a severe fall, and as a result she was taken ill with tubercular meningitis. The disease led to her losing her eyesight, and she attended the Illinois State School for the Blind at Jacksonville for a few years. For the remainder of her life she suffered from painful headaches. In 1919, at the age of fourteen, Elizabeth passed away.

Lillian was born January 6, 1907, and graduated from Wheaton College and Gregg Business College in Chicago. Before her marriage to Verner Dahlstrom on November 9, 1940, she was employed as a secretary. Lillian and Verner farmed in Campton Township near Lily Lake until 1977 when they sold their farm and retired to a home in Barrington. Their daughter Marion and her husband, Frank Kminek, and their five children make their home in the same area.

Lucinda, born June 4, 1909, attended Wheaton College and Northwestern University and taught English in Plato High School for several years. On June 14, 1946, she married Robert Corron, also a Campton Township farmer and living near Wasco. They still live on the farm, but their two sons, Robert and David, now operate the farm. Their daughter Sarah teaches school in Oregon, Illinois.

The youngest of Elizabeth and John's family, John Jr. was born August 3, 1913. After graduating from high school he began farming with his father, and on November 6, 1937, he married Kathryn Thomas. Their oldest son, Jack, is a teacher and lives with his wife Pamela and their two children in Bloomington, Illinois. Elizabeth married Tom Smith of Kansas City, Missouri, and they have two sons. Dick, a teacher in Milwaukee, and his wife Isabelle have two sons. Donald makes his home in Bloomington, where he is involved in social service work. Donald and Deborah are the parents of two children. After college Jack, Dick and Don all participated in the Peace Corps program in Ceylon, Peru and Brazil, respectively. William, John and Kathryn's youngest, and his wife Florette and their daughter Naomi, live on the home farm near his parents, where John still operates the farm.

MARY EMILY BEITH MUIRHEAD

Lucinda and George's third child, usually called Mame, was born September 28, 1875, and she also attended Wheaton Academy where she studied music. Before her marriage Mame sang in the church choir and frequently sang solos in church and for special occasions. In 1906

she too married a farmer and a Muirhead -- Charles Muirhead, also of Plato Center. They farmed the Muirhead homestead, and Charlie's elderly brother lived with them until his death in 1915. Mame and Charlie had two children, Robert born January 3, 1908, and Rachel, November 18, 1911. In 1917 Mame and Charlie retired from farming and moved to Elgin where they were active in the Congregational Church. Charlie died in 1942 and Mame in 1960.

After finishing high school Robert attended the University of Wisconsin. In 1931 he married Elizabeth Castle, and they moved back to Plato to the Muirhead homestead, where they still live. The oldest of their five children, Robert Jr., a graduate of Michigan State, has assumed the management of the farm and is also engaged in producing hybrid seed corn, part of the operation being carried on in Hawaii where Bob and Sue spend some time each winter. Bob and Sue have two children, Sarah and Charlie.

Robert and Betty's oldest daughter Jean, also a Michigan State graduate and a teacher, married William Peacock of Rockford, and they live in California with their two children. Ruth is also a Michigan State graduate and a teacher and lives near Albuquerque, New Mexico, with her son Jason. Margaret and her husband, Robert Marcom, and their two sons live near Waupaca, Wisconsin. Robert and Betty's youngest daughter is employed in East Lansing, Michigan.

Mame and Charlie's daughter Rachel attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago and used her artistic talents in church and community projects, while remaining at home to care for her parents. In 1948 Rachel married Arthur Johnson and adopted his two children, Tom and Jane. Tom, a graduate of the University of Illinois, married Helen Hunsberger in 1970, and they have two sons. Tom is on the faculty at Cornell in Ithaca, New York. Jane, also a University of Illinois graduate and a teacher, resides in Wayne, Michigan, with her husband, Dewey Sims and their three children.

WILLIAM ALMOND BEITH

William Almond Beith was born September 1, 1878, the first of the family to be born in the newly built house which still stands today. After graduating from Wheaton College in 1903 with a major in Latin and Greek, he returned to Elburn to help his brother and father on the farm. In 1905 Will married Grace Sutor, and the newlyweds moved to the house on the farm formerly occupied by the Weisels. After Rob and Jo went to Michigan, Will and Grace moved to the home farm. There they lived until 1945 when they sold the farm and retired to Elburn.

Though Will and Grace had no children of their own, they reared Grace's two nephews, Robert and Roger Sutor, sons of John Sutor. Robert graduated from DeKalb Teachers' College (now Northern Illinois University) and taught manual arts in Barrington and Thornton High Schools until his retirement in 1979. After the death of his wife Mary, Robert remarried, and he and Gertrude now live in Sun City, Arizona. Robert and Mary's son, John Kendall or "JK", is an airplane pilot and makes his home in the East. Their daughter Carol lives in Indianapolis. After graduating from Elburn High School, Roger Sutor moved to Florida where he still resides. Another nephew, Jack Sutor, son of George Sutor, whose home was in Florida, stayed with Will and Grace while he attended DeKalb. After his graduation from college he returned to his home state to teach.

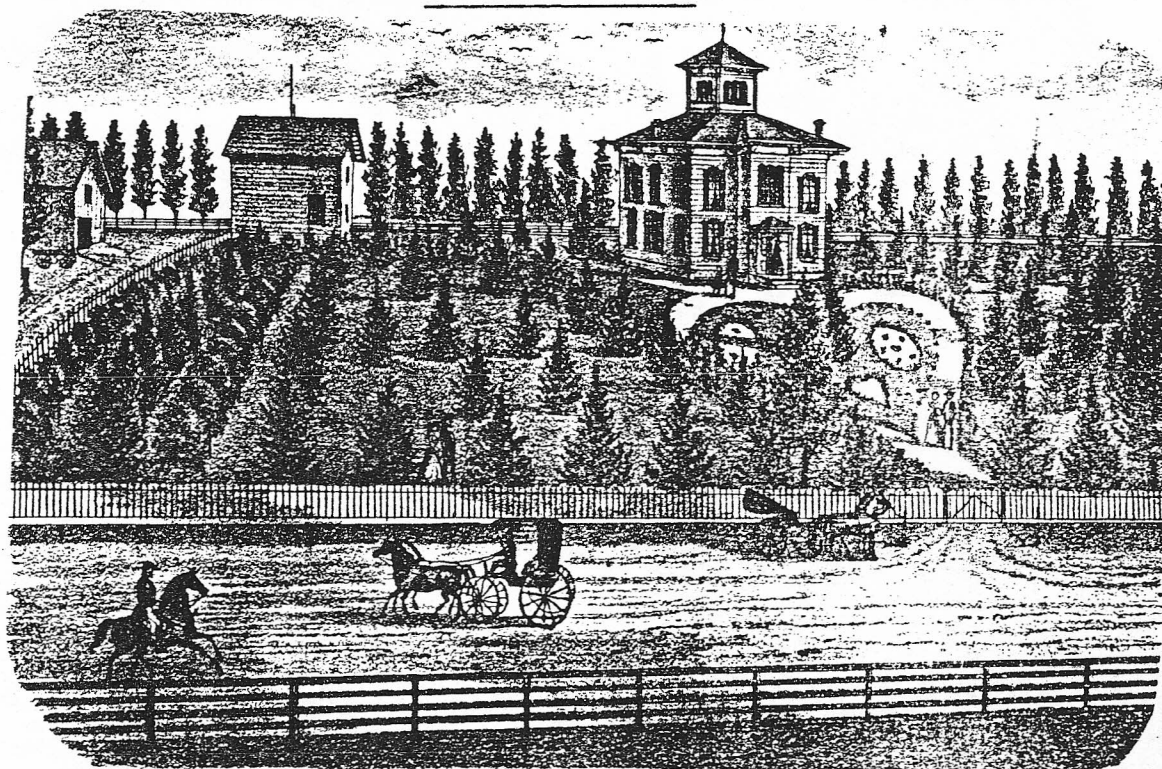
After Will and Grace moved to Elburn, they became more and more involved in community activities. Will continued to serve on the

board of the Elburn Co-op, and he spent a great deal of time working at the Congregational Church. He suffered from a heart condition and died in 1955. After Will's death Grace moved to the Elburn Deconry. She died December 4, 1956.

RACHEL LUTHERA BEITH

Rachel, the youngest of the George Beith family, was born October 21, 1881. Her twin sister Lucinda died when she was only a year old. Rachel graduated from Wheaton College in 1904 and returned home to care for her parents in their later years. Like the rest of her family, she was active in the Congregational Church. For many years she taught a Sunday School class, worked in Vacation Bible School, sang in the church choir, and was a faithful member of the Women's Guild. Rachel had great artistic ability, and her water color paintings and hand-painted dishes are the prized possessions of her nieces and nephews. After her mother's death she studied the art of re-touching photographs and did some work for different photographers in the area.

But above all, Rachel loved her home and worked hard trying to keep everything the way her father had done. When Will sold the farm and moved to Elburn it was a tremendous blow to her, but her neighbors were always very kind, and she enjoyed their companionship. The deaths of Will and Grace, Lizzie, Mame and such good friends as Ada Sharp and Minnie Sharp Pouley made her last years more lonely. However she kept busy caring for her yard and garden and taking an active interest in her church, her friends and her family. Rachel was quiet, intelligent and considerate, and she holds a special place in the hearts of all who knew her. She suffered a stroke in the home which meant so much to her and died a few days later on May 14, 1968, without regaining consciousness. The old house is still in the possession of the Beiths -- Robert Beith Jr. and Mary Beith Tayon.



RES. OF WM. BEITH ESQ.
SEC. 29, CAMPTON TWP. KANE CO. ILL.
KANE COUNTY ATLAS -- 1871



Stonemason William Beith built several structures in the Fox Valley in the mid-1800's. With his son, George Allen Beith, right, he built the family home in St. Charles in 1850.

This is the house that William Beith built — 129 years ago. A stonemason from Scotland, he settled in St. Charles in 1843 and later built the

family home there. Residents are trying to save the house and have it be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Located in a service and manufacturing area in St. Charles, the historic Beith house will be torn down to make way for new development unless it can be

moved. The Beith House Preservation Committee is trying to raise funds to have the house moved to Mount St. Mary Park where it can be restored.

Beith family roots are deep in Campton and Blackberry

WILLIAM BEITH 1818-1901

In recent months a number of dedicated citizens have been working hard to preserve the Beith House, a stone residence located along the Fox River in St. Charles. This community effort to prevent the demolition of the old house is important, not just for St. Charles but for the entire area, as it is another means of keeping alive our local heritage.

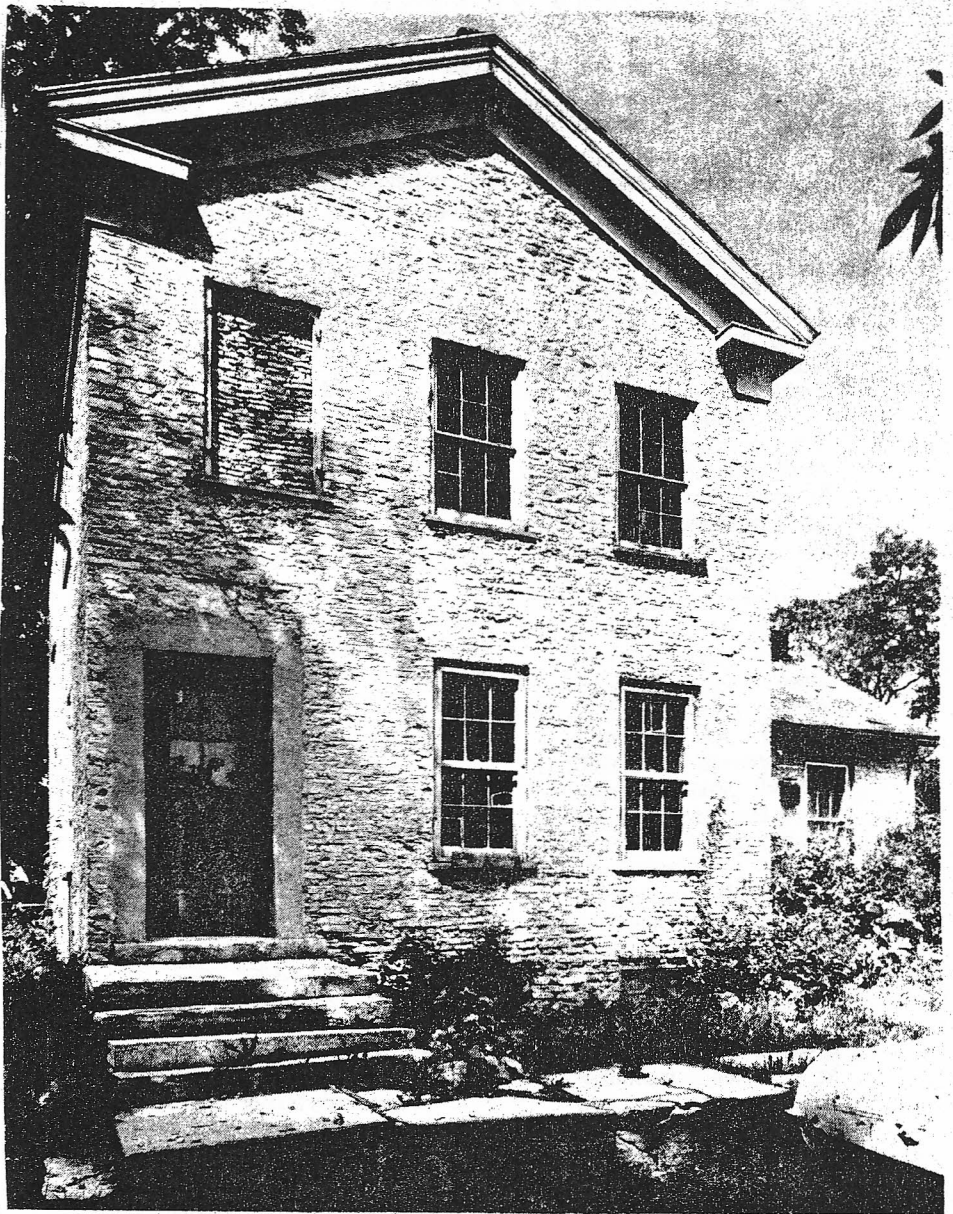
When William Beith arrived in St. Charles from Scotland in 1843, he found that there was plenty of opportunity to use his skill and training as a stone mason in the Fox River area. Assisted by his father, Robert Beith, who came to America in 1844, William's first job was to build the St. Charles Congregational Church. In the years that followed Robert and William erected many buildings along the Fox River, even going as far as Chicago to ply their trade. Among these buildings were factories and churches in Batavia and Aurora, as well as in St. Charles.

The Beith family had originally settled on a small acreage on Prairie Street in St. Charles, but in 1850 William built the house now known as the Beith House. There he lived with his family until 1860 when he retired from the building trade and moved to Campton Township where he farmed the land which he had purchased from

the government in 1845. A portion of the farm was rather swampy, but William found that by making his own tile and draining the land he could produce better crops. As the demand for such improvement of farming land grew, he began the manufacture of tile in a factory in Aurora.

While living in St. Charles William was always interested in community affairs, so when he moved to Campton Township he transferred those interests to the small village of Blackberry, later known as Elburn. He felt that education was of primary importance, and his daughter was one of the earliest graduates of Wheaton College. His son George attended Byrant and Stratton's Commercial College in Chicago.

In later years William's community activities were limited as he spent much of his time caring for his invalid



The William Beith house in St. Charles is in jeopardy.

wife who was confined to a wheelchair. When William died in 1901 he was buried in the Blackberry Cemetery south of Elburn.

George took over the farm in the 1870s and was always very interested in activities in the Elburn area. Many Elburn residents may still remember William's grandson and namesake, Will Beith, who was vitally concerned with community projects. The latter was especially active in the Congregational Church, the public schools, the Elburn CoOp, the Kane County Farm Bureau, and the World War II draft board. The old home on

Beith Road, which was built in the 1870s, still stands as another reminder of William's architectural skill.

William's grandson George and his wife Betty now reside on the property in a new house to the east. The house that William built belongs to his grandson Robert's children and was known to present generations as the Rachel Beith home.

George Beith can remember driving cattle with his father from the Beith farm to the Northwestern railroad in Elburn for shipment. George rode his poney, being too young for a horse.

Beith House Stonemason's handiwork can be saved for 25¢ a lb.

By Lei Chatfield

The Beacon-News

ST. CHARLES — Most people agree that historic buildings should be preserved.

That's easy.

But the actual act of doing so takes much time, work, wading through red tape, and most of all — money.

The Beith House Preservation Committee is finding that true in trying to save the 129-year-old stone home built by St. Charles stonemason William Beith.

Beith, a native of Scotland, came to St. Charles in 1843. The first building he constructed here was the Congregational Church. He also built the paper mill in Batavia, the Jennings Seminary in Aurora (which was lost to a fire) and the Dunning Block and Methodist Church in Aurora.

The Beith home is not a mansion, but an ordinary family home of the mid-1800s. It is one of the few such stone structures in the area, according to committee secretary and architect Michael Dixon.

It must be moved from its current location to be saved. It is at the end of Indiana Street on the West side bank of the Fox River, sandwiched between a manufacturing company, a cleaning establishment and a garage.

The committee members plan to save it by selling it to residents — by the pound. In mid-January they plan to send letters to local businessmen and service groups asking for donations.

The letters will be part of the first major fund-raising campaign whereby people will be buying the 340,000-pound house, at 25 cents a pound.

"The idea is that they will pay for the moving of the house," said Nancy Polivka, committee co-chairman. "By paying a quarter a pound, we'll raise enough for moving and restoration."

Dixon said the 340,000-pound figure

is an estimated weight based on the house's dimensions and the 16-inch thick walls.

The owner of the Beith House site, LaGrange Park developer Richard Ward, has given the house to the committee—provided the house be moved by next spring.

The Park District has given the committee conditional approval to relocate the house on park property. The tentative new site will be the northeast corner of Mount St. Mary Park, about two blocks south of its current location.

Before the board will give final approval, the committee must have the money in hand for the restoration project.

Pete Friesen of Advance Moving Contractors Inc. of West Chicago said his company will move the house and foundation for \$35,000.

Polivka estimated the first phase of the five-phase movement to save the house will cost \$50,000.

Cost estimates for the other phases haven't been established yet, but Polivka said the committee hoped to get help from both the city and park boards.

The second phase will include the installation of utilities and a security system. The third and fourth phases are the actual restoration and furnishing of the building, and the final stage is the presentation of the building.

Restorations of Kane County and the St. Charles Jaycees have already become involved in the project. The Jaycees have contributed \$250 and will help with the foundation work and restoration.

Restorations has officially taken over the project and will work hand in hand with the new Beith committee, which is nominating the house for consideration on the National

Register of Historic Places.

Dixon has asked area residents for help in gathering more information on the house. Anyone with information or old photographs of the house should contact him at his architect office in St. Charles.

The committee will also receive help from the Beith family. Karen Beith of Elgin is co-chairman of the committee, which was formed on July 30.

It consists of representatives from the Garfield Heritage Society, Restorations of Kane County, Make America Better Committee, St. Charles Historical Society, St. Charles Rotary, the city and park board and a representative of the community at large.

Polivka said they haven't devised a fund-raising campaign yet to reach the general public, but they hope to set up contribution boxes around town.

Those persons buying a significant number of pounds will receive a certificate, and a plaque will be placed in the restored house recording the names of those donating \$500 or more.

Individuals interested in buying pounds of the house can make out a check to Restorations of Kane County — Beith House. Contributions should be sent to George Keyser, 423 So. 7th St., St. Charles.

Committee members hope to have the \$35,000 in hand by next spring. If so, they are aiming at May 1 as moving day.

BEACON-NEWS, Aurora, Ill.

Sunday, December 9, 1979.

My Home.

My home is two and one half miles north-east of Ely and the same distance south-east of Lily Lake.

The house is situated in the center of a very large yard, on the north side of a road running east and west. In the yard are a great many evergreens. The main part of the house is forty feet square and on the north side of it is a large wing. The house is white with green blinds, and faces the south. On the south side is the front porch, and on the west side of the wing is the back porch.

West of the house is the white barn and the tool-house, and west of them is the red barn. The red barn is very large and in the south side of it are a grinder, corn sheller, stalk cutter, and an elevator, which are run by a large wind mill.

North of the house is the woodpile, and a large red hen house in which there are many chickens.

East of the woodpile are a few apple trees, some cherry trees, and the garden. Also along the fence on the west side of the yard are some apple trees.

We have a large orchard beside which contains

a great many apple trees. East of the orchard is an old house, where corn is kept for the hogs. South of the white barn is the well and the corn crib.

West of the red barn is a grove of walnut trees, and also one of catalpa, larch and spruce trees, which were set out a year ago last spring, for the purpose of breaking the wind. South-east of the red barn is the milk house, where we cool our milk.

Part of our farm is on the north side of the road and part on the south side. Part of the farm is rented.

Down stairs in the main part of the house are a hall, parlor, sitting-room, dining-room, pantry, bath-room, two bed-rooms and two closets. In the wing is the kitchen. Up stairs in the main part of the house are a hall, six bed-rooms and four closets. The two halls are connected by a long stair. In the wing is the back chamber, which is connected with the main part of the house, by a door from it into the hall.

At the north-east side of the upper hall is

a door opening into the stair-way which leads to the garret, from which there is another stair-way to the cupola, from which you get a nice view of the surrounding country.

Under the main part of the building is a large cellar and under the wing is a small one. There is a large cistern, and at the east side of the house is another. In the large cellar the potatoes, apples, and canned fruit are kept.

All of the rooms are carpeted and furnished, except the back-chamber, kitchen, garret and cupola.

There are eleven in our family: Father, Mother, Grandpa^{and} Grandma, my two brothers, Robert^{and} Willie, my two sisters, Mamie^{and} Rachel, two hired men, and myself. Robert is seventeen years old and is the eldest of the family. I am next oldest. Mamie next, Willie next, and Rachel next, who is nearly eight years old.

My home, to me, is a very beautiful place.

By S. L. L.

Sept. 1889

Wheaton Academy

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

We, the grandchildren of George and Lucinda Beith, treasure the many wonderful memories we have of Grandma and Grandpa Beith and Aunt Rachel and the old home on Beith Road.

We all loved Grandma and Grandpa's house. It was so interesting and had so many things that we didn't have in our own homes. The old pump in the back kitchen was an attractive feature, as was the zinc bathtub in the downstairs bathroom. Grandpa always kept a jar of peppermint stick candy on the big sideboard in the dining room, and when we were children store candy was a real treat. The chimes that hung in the hallway by the stairway always fascinated us, but fortunately for its well-being, we children were unable to reach it to pound the life out of it. We weren't too impressed with the four gold-framed photographs hanging on the walls in the east room. Our great grand-parents -- the Almond Richmonds and the William Beiths -- seemed to be looking sternly down on us, and in those days "children should be seen and not heard." The beautiful wide stair rail was a great temptation to slide down, and we were all scolded for doing just that at one time or another by our parents or grandparents.

In the upstairs hallway was the family picture which we enjoyed looking at and trying to figure out how our parents could ever have been so young. The upstairs bedrooms, with the marble-topped dressers and wash stands, did not especially appeal to us then, but we loved the back chamber, which was full of interesting old things and books and magazines. The room off the back chamber, which was once the hired men's bedroom, had more things of the past which today would be priceless. And then there was the cupola!

A trip to Grandma's on a Sunday afternoon was a very special time. They were always so glad to see us in spite of the fact that one of the first things we wanted to do was to dash upstairs to the cupola. If the weather was warm, we would stay up there and play in both the attic and the cupola. In the attic there were old song books, girls' bicycles and any number of interesting things -- just like the back chamber. Then, too, Grandma's attic was always so orderly, unlike most attics, so there was plenty of room for us to run around. Sometimes we played school, at other times church, and then more active games like tag. As we grew older we enjoyed taking our friends to Grandma's with us, and the first thing we always did was to show them the cupola. All in all, it was an exciting time when the Beith, Muirhead and Sutor cousins got together, but the grandparents must have sighed with relief when we all went home.

In the summer there were ball games in the yard, and even the adults would play with us. Probably Uncle Will was our favorite grown-up because he seemed to enjoy the ball games as much as we did. Sometimes there would be other relatives there -- Grandpa's cousins -- the Whitneys, Wheatons, Cutlers, Houlistons, Harpers, Johnstons, Sills, and others whom we didn't see often enough to really get acquainted with.

But the most exciting time of all was Christmas at Grandma's! The dining room table was pulled out and loaded with all kinds of good food. Usually it was necessary to put up another table to take care of the big crowd. In the living room was the Christmas tree which Grandpa had cut from the grove. But, like most children at Christmas time, the things we noticed most were the gifts under the tree. While the women were busy putting the finishing touches on the dinner, we were busy checking out the names on the gifts and feeling and shaking each present that had our name on it. The really exciting time came after dinner

when the gifts were passed out. Grandma stopped having the family Christmas after Grandpa died, but Elizabeth and John had it in their home until the families got too large to get together. For many years Mame and Charlie entertained the family at Thanksgiving at their home in Elgin -- another big occasion for the Beith clan!

As we look back we recall many wonderful things: Grandma's bread which was better than any we ever ate; riding with Grandpa to Elburn on the milk wagon; visiting Aunt Rachel's Sunday School class and Daily Vacation Bible School and picking raspberries with her; and going with Grandma and Aunt Rachel to visit Grandma's sisters, Aunt Luthera Richmond and Aunt Lizzie Neville, who lived a short distance up the road.

But there is a sadness about looking back. During our childhood the old home was not only an interesting place to visit, but there was so much life and activity there. Then as we grew up and went our separate ways and the older generation died, our visits there were less frequent. Aunt Rachel lived alone for almost forty years, and the once busy household was very quiet. Our children and grandchildren loved Aunt Rachel and found the house as fascinating as we had, and we hope they will treasure the Beith heritage as much as we do.

PRESENT ADDRESSES OF BEITH FAMILY MEMBERS

Mrs. Josephine Beith Austen) Route #2 Beith Road
Mr. and Mrs. George Beith) Elburn, Illinois 60119

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beith 34 Lake Drive, West Chicago, Illinois 60185

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Corron 7N761 Corron Road, Wasco, Illinois 60183

Mr. and Mrs. Verner Dahlstrom 110 Howe Terrace, Barrington, Ill. 60010

Loretta and Mary Louise Houliston 704 Gary Avenue, Wheaton, Ill. 60187

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Johnson 250 Hamilton Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Longthorne (Doris Sill)
1821 S. Washington, Apt. 301, Naperville, Illinois 60540

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Muirhead 2634 Nicklaus Drive, Mesa, Arizona 85205

Mr. and Mrs. John Muirhead Plato Center, Illinois 60170

Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Muirhead Plato Center, Illinois 60170

Mr. and Mrs. Sumner Sommerfield (Pearl Wheaton)
1913 E. Indiana Street, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sutor 12635 Butterfield Drive, Sun City, Arizona
85375

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We hope that the historical material and stories of the Beith family may give all of us a greater appreciation of our heritage and a better understanding of the part our ancestors have played in the history of this area.

The sources for much of this history have been Kane County histories: Kane County Commemorative Records: Biographies and Portraits, published in 1888; A Biographical Record of Kane County, Illinois, published in 1898; A History of Kane County, Volume II, published in 1908; and two Kane County Atlases, published in 1871 and 1892.

We are especially grateful to a group of citizens who have been working to preserve and restore the William Beith stone house in St. Charles. The committee, composed of Nancy Polivka and Karen Beith, co-chairwomen; Allan Anstach and Mike Dixon, have publicized the project in local newspaper articles, several of which we have included here. We also appreciate the work of Eve Johnson, a neighbor of the Beiths, who was largely responsible for initiating the restoration program.

Several members of the Beith family have contributed material for this history. Most helpful of all has been Josephine Beith Austen, widow of Robert E. Beith. Loretta Houliston, Rachel Johnson, Pearl Sommerfield, and Robert and George Beith have all furnished additional information about the family. The most complete record of all the descendants of the Robert Beith family, from which the genealogical charts were made, was compiled by John Houliston before his death in 1977.

The special emphasis of this history is on the Robert Beith -- William Beith -- George Beith line, but we have attempted to include enough about the other children of Robert and Margaret Beith to encourage further research concerning those families, each of which has a story of its own. Since much of the material included here has been passed on by word-of-mouth and perhaps faulty memories, we trust that you will excuse any discrepancies and enjoy with us the past one hundred and forty years of the Beith family.

Compiled and edited by
Lucinda Corron